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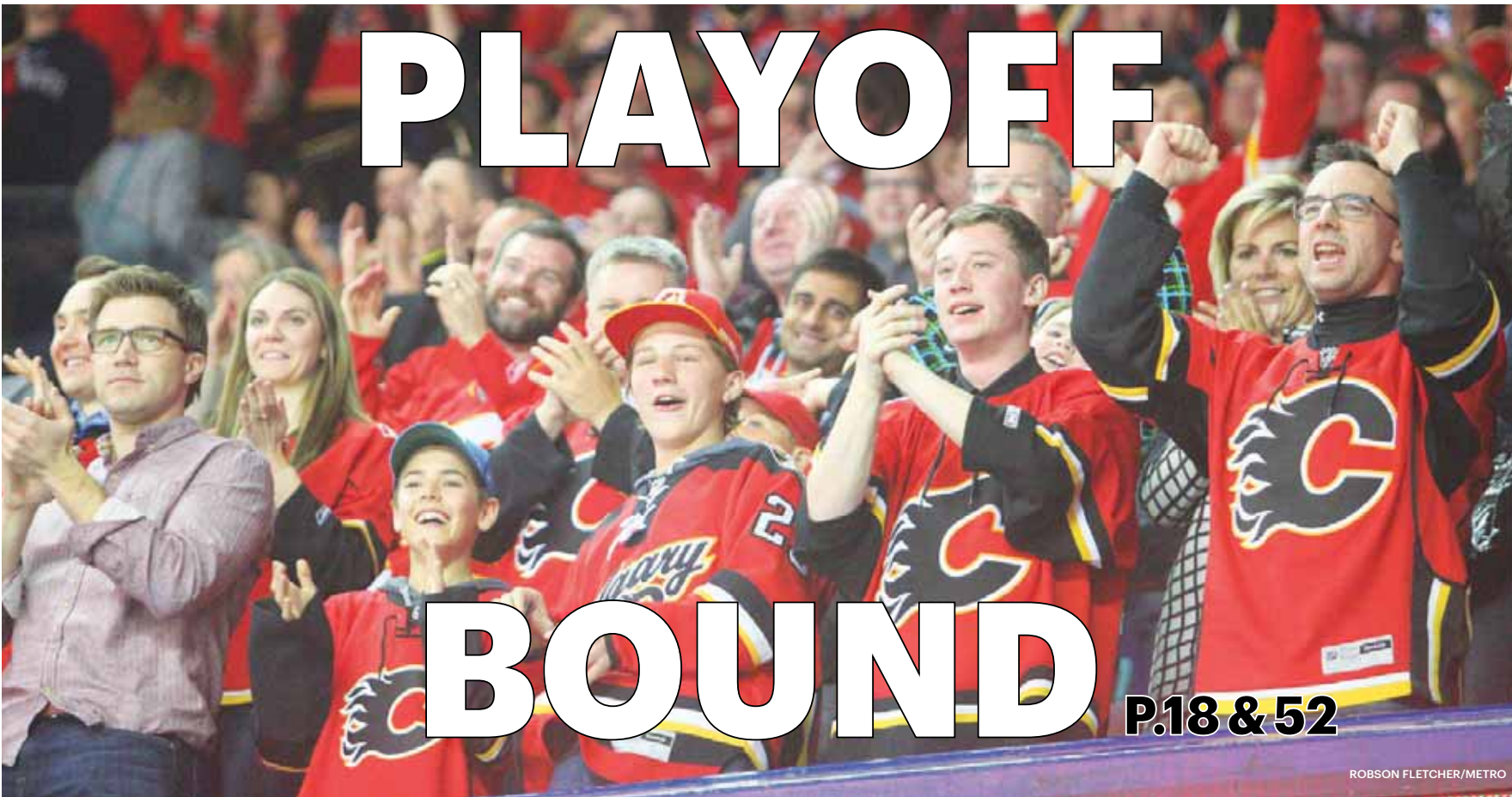
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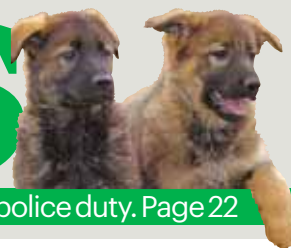
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IN BRIEF

Police seek man in missing woman case

Police are looking to speak with a man who may have information about Jessica Rae Newman, who disappeared March 10.

Police said the man, who is believed to be in his 30s, could have information that could assist in the ongoing investigation, but he is not believed to be responsible for her disappearance.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers.

METRO



Calgary police are looking to speak with this man.

CALGARY POLICE HANDOUT

ALERT seizes around \$40,000 in fentanyl

A 28-year-old man is facing drug charges after a recent drug bust in downtown Calgary.

The seizure was the result of an Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) Calgary operation between Calgary police and RCMP.

Jamal Louisy, 28, was arrested with 500 fentanyl pills and a search of his apartment resulted in the seizure of cocaine, evidence to suggest drug trafficking, and more than 117,000 in cash. METRO

Poets prepare to slam down the competition

EDUCATION

Students leave prose behind for spoken word event



Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Calgary students are ready to word-slam their way to the top during a spoken word competition unlike like any other.

Organizer Richard Wagner from Lord Beaverbrook High School said the Can You Hear Me Now? competition has doubled in size since its inception last year with city students competing against 15 different schools, including three teams from outside the city. Wagner said one of the great things about the competition is giving quieter students a platform to share their creativity.

"There are all these students who have been sort of quiet and invisible, and this is a way for them to be recognized," Wagner said. "To see them take ownership of their voice and find out they have something to say is amazing."

Father Lacombe student Bethel Afework competed in the spoken word competition last year, and said it was the first time she was able to



Winners from last year's spoken word poetry competition pile on stage. This year, Calgary is hosting three teams from out of province to compete in a one-of-a-kind spoken poetry battle.

CONTRIBUTED

showcase her art in a way she felt it could be really appreciated.

"I thought this would be a really great way to get a different type of art I really like doing out there," Afework said. "I've never really performed in front of a big crowd, so to hear them snapping and enjoying your art, I really liked the feeling inside."

Afework has gotten a team together again for this year

"To see them take ownership of their voice ... is amazing."

Richard Wagner

and said she's excited to see what talents students from across the city and province have to bring to the competition.

"Spoken word especially on the high school level really lets you share it," she said. "I feel like it's given me a lot of opportunities, and I can put so much more meaning to into my art."

Sponsored by ATB Financial, winning teams will receive \$500 in prize money. Can You Hear Me Now? is also charging non-perishable food items as admission for the show to donate to the Calgary Food Bank.

GUN SAFETY

Officer's conduct a no-no: Expert

A former firearm instructor says the off-duty Calgary police officer who had his patrol-issue rifle stolen while eating at a restaurant violated some of the basic rules of gun safety.

The firearm, a C8 semi-automatic rifle, was stolen during a "car-prowling" incident on April 4 from a parking lot at Crowfoot Crossing, according to police.

Left in the officer's vehicle as he attended Schanks Sports Bar, the weapon was stored in a secure, hardcover case.

"That's a definite no-no in my books," said Todd Brown, a former instructor with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association and co-founder of the group Concerned Gun Owners of Alberta.

While he feels the officer is "innocent until proven guilty," he also said officers should know how to properly transport a firearm.

"You're supposed to go from Point A to Point B ... (in) as direct a route as possible," he said. "If he was off-duty and he was in possession of a firearm, he is breaking the law in my mind."

The officer, a three-year member of District 3, has been suspended with pay and officials with the Calgary Police Service said the incident has caused them great concern.

A request for an interview with police was not accommodated on Thursday.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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Mark Ramsankar, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, says a lack of funding to counter student growth and inflation is hurting the quality of education for students. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Student funding 'not sustainable': Teachers

SCHOOLS

Restrictions on operating reserves hurts flexibility: ATA



Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Per-student dollars in Alberta have been on a downward trajectory over the past half-decade and the head of the provincial teachers' lobby says the current provincial funding model is "not sustainable."

Data provided by the Alberta Teachers' Association and independently verified by Metro found that, overall, the total amount public, Catholic and Francophone school boards have available per learner has dropped from \$9,411 in 2011-12 to an estimated \$9,166 for the coming 2015-16 school year. But, when inflation is factored in, the gap grows wider, from

\$8,997 in 2011-12 to \$8,225 in 2015-16.

Mark Ramsankar, ATA president, also noted that his members haven't seen a pay bump since the first year of the calculations, yet funds for classrooms have continued to lag. The slide continues this coming school year, he said, as no additional funding was provided in Budget 2015 to accommodate student growth.

"The government has said in this last budget that they will maintain service," he said, adding, "but when you talk about 12,000 new students coming into the province (this year) and you're talking about a 2.1 per cent inflation rate, how are you going to maintain service with this kind of growth?"

In an internal memo leaked this week to Metro, the Progressive Conservative Party said "repeated claims of insufficient operational funding" by the Calgary Board of Education, the province's largest school board, are "not to be believed."

The memo was distributed to MLA candidates in the event

\$180M

Mark Ramsankar of the Alberta Teachers Association estimates that the total funding shortfall by 63 provincial schools is \$180 million.

they received questions about a projected \$29.3 million shortfall the CBE says it anticipates for 2015-16 year. Overall, the ATA estimates the total shortfall faced by 63 provincial school boards will amount to \$180 million this year, Ramsankar said.

The Tory memo reads, "CBE has the flexibility to make judicious use of its accumulated surplus and contingency funds in order to ensure front-line needs are met first."

The CBE reported \$37 million in its Accumulated Surplus from Operations (ASO) reserve in August 2014, enough to make up this year's total shortfall and then some.

But correspondence to school

boards from Education Minister Gordon Dirks on March 26 laid out new restrictions for using reserves. He stated any use of the banked funds would have to be prioritized and justified to support "transition planning."

"Therefore, no expenditures, even those already planned, are to be funded through your ASO without prior ministerial approval," reads the letter from Dirks.

Helen Clease, president of the Alberta School Boards Association, deemed the new restrictions on reserves concerning — all told, boards had stored a combined \$461 million as of August — and said it could impact the ability to support students at the local level.

"We need a rainy-day fund," Clease said. "Good business practice is to have some money in reserve so you can pay your staff ... I know many of them (school boards) have already got projects that those funds are earmarked for."

A representative for the minister said he wasn't available Thursday.

EDUCATION

ELL funds in decline, demand remains high

City school boards have already seen their funding to support students learning English as an additional language decline, even before cuts were announced in this year's provincial budget.

Metro compared the number of students classified as English-language learners (ELL) by both the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District and the amount of money received in their provincial grants.

In 2011-12, CBE had \$901 per ELL student and CCSD had \$972. In the current school year, however, those amounts have declined to \$851 and \$808, respectively.

The province says the differential in the per-student funding between the two boards is due to certain ELL grade levels receiving more dollars than others.

Regardless, the cuts have stirred concerns from education advocates, who say they will struggle to care for more ELL students with fewer dollars.

"I have to tell you, it's very concerning," said Linda Wellman, trustee chair for CCSD.

"Up until this point in time, we've continued to provide the optimal level of service that we can to our English-language learners," she added. "Whether or not we're going to be able to continue along the same line that we are now — the same level — it's unknown."

The Catholic district in particular has seen its total number of ELL students jump by nearly 50 per cent over the past four years. Both city boards now say

roughly a quarter of their students require supports to learn English.

But in its 2015-16 education budget rolled out last month, the province cut 3.1 per cent from English-as-a-second-language grants.

Those reductions come on top of a move in 2013 to cut the number of years ELL students receive assistance from seven to five. As well, Wellman said an "enhanced grant" to help students coming in from developing countries cope with the trauma they've experienced was recently lost.

Mother Hina Rauf had three children progress through the CBE's ELL program. She said the

“

The budget has required some tough choices.

Premier Jim Prentice

assistance did wonders for her youngsters, but fears other may not be so lucky with continued cuts to provincial funding.

Asked at a news conference last week about the reductions to funding for certain student groups, including ELL and First Nations, Premier Jim Prentice responded, "The budget has required tough choices."

"We've made them and we're all going to have to work hard over the next couple of years — it's going to be a challenging time for our province," he said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



Hina Rauf is seen with her sons Kashan, left, Rayan and Shuja. She fears students won't have access to the supports for English Language Learners that her kids did. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO



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The Safe Couch Program is giving youth in Cochrane somewhere to sleep while they get on their feet. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

Couches a safe haven for homeless

OUTREACH

New program addresses needs of at-risk youth in Cochrane



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Rural youth homelessness often goes unnoticed, but there's a new program in Cochrane hoping to shed some light on the issue and offer places for young ones to lay their heads.

It's called the Safe Couch Program and it helps provide homeless and at-risk youth with a space to call their own.

The program certifies households with criminal background checks and both family and youth enter into a contract with one end goal: To help the couch surfer land on their feet.

"We want to provide more than a roof over their head. We want to have them look at some career planning or life planning," said David Smith, youth housing co-ordinator with the Boys and Girls Club of Cochrane and Area.

At any given time, Smith said, there are around 20 homeless youth in the area — but without a point-in-time count, it's hard to tell how extensive

the town's homelessness problem actually is.

Adelle Forzley, senior program co-ordinator for youth with the Boys and Girls Club, said it's important to keep homeless youth in their own communities. But in Cochrane, a homeless shelter for youth simply wasn't an option.

"It's important to keep youth in their communities because that's where their natural supports are," Forzley said. "When you take them out of their community, they're starting over ... It just makes them incredibly vulnerable."

That's why Forzley said the program fits the community's needs. Not only will it give youth somewhere to sleep, but it will also help the community understand the struggles of youth homelessness that often go unnoticed.

"It's more than working with the youth, it's working with the community, as well," said Smith. "Our philosophy is housing first, get them stabilized, and then try and figure out how to we help them get back on track."

The program is already getting support from local business and the broader community.

The first safe-couch home is currently being set up, and paperwork is being signed to start the process of what Smith hopes will be a successful program.

SPONSORSHIP

Music centre will be named 'Studio Bell'

The National Music Centre's new home, currently under construction in Calgary's East Village, will be named "Studio Bell" after the telecommunications giant announced a 12-year, \$10-million sponsorship deal Thursday.

"Partnering with Bell supports our national vision and ability to connect with music lovers from coast to coast to coast," Andrew Mosker, president and CEO of the Na-

tional Music Centre, said in a release. "Studio Bell will be a technologically innovative national hub celebrating Canada and the power of music."

The facility, set to open in spring 2016, will house the NMC's 2,000-piece collection of artifacts, instruments and music technology and feature 22,000 square feet of exhibits of Canadian music, as well as a 300-seat performance space and recording studios.

NMC has raised \$125 million toward its campaign goal of \$168 million.

The municipal, provincial and federal governments each contributed \$25 million to the project.

"We are confident the Studio Bell partnership positions us to deliver on our mission, vision and commitment to honour Canada's music story," Mosker said.

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A rendering of the new National Music Centre. CONTRIBUTED

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Lall to run as independent

ELECTION

PCs mum on booting longtime member



Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

After being barred from running as a Tory in his hometown, Jamie Lall is hardly feeling blue now that he'll appear on the ballot as an independent.

In an interview with Metro Thursday, Lall confirmed his candidacy in Chestermere-Rocky View, the very same riding where he was "disallowed" from seeking the Progressive Conservative nomination days before a vote.

The move by party officials spurred rumblings and head scratches within the ruling party, as Lall had passed the Tory vetting process with flying colours twice in 2012 and officially ran against winning Liberal Kent Hehr in Calgary-Buffalo.

But Lall said he's not focus-

ing on the past and actually is pleased to shed the Tory policy shackles.

"It's not about sending messages to parties or anything like that — this is for me," he said. "And I want to prove to myself that I can do it and give those constituents that choice."

"Our team has been chomping at the bit. We're going to run a lean campaign, a fun campaign and we're going to give it everything we've got."

Lall has said he was interviewed by a PC party investigator early on in his nomination bid but maintains he's been given no reason for his disqualification.

He'll now go head-to-head with Tory Bruce McAllister, who won as a Wildrose member in 2012 and then joined the bulk of his peers in crossing the floor to the ruling party in December. Also on the ballot will be the Green's Coral Bliss Taylor, NDP challenger William Pelech and Wildrose candidate Leela Aheer. Duane Bratt, a political scientist at Mount Royal University, said it was Aheer who stands to gain the most with Lall's entry into the race.

He said McAllister was already



Jamie Lall will now be on the Chestermere-Rocky View ballot as an independent. METRO FILE

going to have to confront the "legacy" of crossing to the Tories and now he'll butt heads with members of his own party who are loyal to Lall. "I don't think Jamie can win, but I think Jamie can strip votes away from him (McAllister)," Bratt said.

Lall, meanwhile, was due to resign from his post as head of the Calgary-McCall riding association. He said he's received "across the board" support from members of all provincial parties since being booted from the Tory race.

He branded himself as an "in-

dependent conservative" and said he has deep roots in the riding — after all, he grew up in Chestermere.

"It's a close-knit community," he said. "People will see here there's an opportunity for us to do something special."

POLITICS

Jim Prentice scoffs at suggestion he tried to undermine Harper

Alberta Progressive Conservative Leader Jim Prentice says a suggestion that he tried to undermine Prime Minister Stephen Harper while serving in the federal cabinet is "ridiculous."

Prentice was responding to Wildrose leader and former MP Brian Jean, who said the incumbent Alberta premier wanted the prime minister's job.

Jean told CTV Edmonton's morning news show Thursday that members of Prentice's team would try to undermine Harper whenever the prime minister's polling numbers would sink.

Prentice scoffed at the notion. "I think it is ridiculous," he said. "The prime minister and I are quite close and had a fabulous working relationship all the time I was in Ottawa."

Jean later offered an apology.

"It was inappropriate of me to talk about past internal caucus tensions," he said in a statement.

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Students call on political tactics

GET OUT THE VOTE

Ballot crucial for union as post secondary future unsure



Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

The lingering sting of budget cuts, the prospect of paying much more to enrol in certain programs and warnings of changes still to come.

It's for these reasons local post-secondary advocates say it's never been more important to get their members to the ballot box on May 5.

"The future of post-secondary is kind of at a crossroads," said Levi Nilson, who will soon take over as president of the University of Calgary Students' Union. "We've had two major budget cuts in two years, the tuition cap is potentially being

lifted, costs are being increased for students and the quality is really going down."

On Thursday, he and his peers, along with those from Mount Royal University and other schools in Edmonton and Lethbridge, doled out thousands of pledges to students committing to vote. Those signing on for the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign will receive a reminder call come election day.

Nilson said the goal is to involve 6,000 students. He said the tactic borrows from political parties who push hard to get supporters to the polls.

May 5 will mark the first general election in Alberta since the province slashed post-secondary operating grants by 7.3 per cent. Some of that money was later restored but not before institutions eliminated programs, trimmed enrolment and reduced staffing counts.

Also weighing heavily on the mind, according to Mount Royal health-sciences student Taylir Lively, are the market-modifi-

er tuition hikes announced in late December for 25 programs provincewide.

The hikes, which the province says are intended to correct market anomalies, will cost students another \$21 million annually.

Then there's the provincial budget dropped in March that will cut an additional 1.4 per cent from operating grants this coming school year as well as an additional 2.7 per cent in 2016-17. Provincial officials claimed at the time that Alberta's current post-secondary model isn't sustainable, ratcheting up fears among students that they will be on the hook for more.

Lively noted the number of student-loan dollars is due to shoot up 42 per cent this fall, while available bursaries will decline 25 per cent. She, like many, also fears the legislated tuition cap at the rate of inflation will soon be abolished.

"It's crazy," she said. "If they remove that it will inhibit so many students."



Students distribute pledges to vote at the University of Calgary on Thursday, weeks ahead of the May provincial ballot. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Chu take issue with mayor's Alberta election website

Alberta politics spilled into the municipal arena this week as Coun. Sean Chu took issue with Mayor Naheed Nenshi reviving a website that asks provincial candidates their views on urban affairs.

Chu said he had no input on the content of site, which bears both an image of Nenshi's face and the City of Calgary logo. "If he's going to act on my behalf, please at least ask me first," Chu said of the mayor's actions.

Nenshi, however, noted Chu and all councillors have the opportunity for input. "I would really encourage you to join the Intergovernmental Affairs committee or AUMA (Alberta Urban Municipalities Association) as well," Nenshi tweeted at Chu. "Need your perspective."

The site, citiesmatter.ca, was last used to post responses to queries of PC leadership candidates Thomas Lukaszuk, Ric McIver and Jim Prentice last year. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Majority of voters find PCs 'arrogant'

ELECTION

Yet also unsure whether other parties fit to run province



Darren Krause
Metro | Calgary

The majority of Albertans don't think the NDP or Wildrose are too extreme, believe the PC Party is arrogant and elitist and are not happy about the mass Wildrose MLA floor-crossing last December, new research panel results show.

But residents also aren't too sure if any party not cloaked in Tory blue is equipped to run the province.

Recent messaging from Progressive Conservative party leader Jim Prentice has positioned the governing Tories as the middle party between two extremes, yet, only 44 per cent of Albertans in a ThinkHQ research panel thought the Alberta NDP or the Wildrose were too radical for their liking.

The caveat to this, explained ThinkHQ pollster Marc Henry, is that the responses generally followed along party lines. He said PCs and Wildrose thought the NDP was too extreme, and the NDP and Liberals thought the Wildrose party was too extreme.

"It'll be interesting to see if you have some Wildrose going to vote PC to save them from the NDP," Henry said, referring to some of the last election's strategic voting.

The survey of "attitudinals" among Alberta voters had responses from 1,835 Albertans and was conducted between April



Premier Jim Prentice is seen on the campaign trail Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



It'll be interesting to see if you have some Wildrose going to vote PC to save them from the NDP.

Marc Henry

2 and 6. It was an online survey with a representative but not random sample of voters,

though a sample of this size yields a typical margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

The survey also shows 72 per cent of Albertans believe the PC Party is arrogant and elitist, including almost 30 per cent of those who intend to vote for the PC Party.

In terms of the PC party dynasty, 69 per cent of respondents said 43 years in power is too long. Still, 63 per cent of those surveyed said Jim Prentice has done a better job as premier

61%

The survey results show that 61 per cent of respondents are not excited about voting for any of the parties right now.

than predecessor Alison Redford.

While the survey suggests there is a strong desire for an opposition (87 per cent) and some distaste for the PC Party and recent actions, Henry believes the numbers show we're not yet ready for someone else to steer the provincial ship.

In fact, though a vast majority want a strong majority, 42 per cent of Albertans don't think any of the opposition parties have what it takes to run Alberta.

University of Calgary Political Science professor Melanee Thomas said the panel shows there's a potential for wide ranging intention among individual voters.

"What this tells me is there's more variability in how people are prepared to vote," said Thomas.

Thomas said right now most voters view other parties through their current political party lens, leading them to less favourable characterizations of them.

"Normally it takes a lot to shake that psychological identification," she said.

That's why Henry said that although early results show a statistical tie between the three major parties, they're really showing who's likely to be filling opposition benches.

"I think you're seeing ... they're going to vote NDP or Wildrose because that means they're going to be in opposition," said Henry.

ECONOMY

NDP says tax credit could create jobs

Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley says while the Progressive Conservatives have no plan to create jobs, her party does.

Notley says if her team forms government it will introduce a job creation tax credit.

The credit will help employers by refunding 10 per cent of each new employee's salary to a maximum salary of

\$50,000. Notley estimates the credit will create 27,000 jobs.

Job creation has been a key issue on the campaign trail so far, with Premier Jim Prentice saying he won't hike Alberta's corporate tax rate because it would cost thousands of jobs.

Alberta's corporate tax sits at 10 per cent, the lowest in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EMPLOYMENT

More tax would mean jobs lost: Prentice

Premier Jim Prentice says increasing corporate taxes in Alberta would kill jobs.

While campaigning in central Alberta Prentice stressed the importance of keeping the province's tax environment competitive at a time of financial stress caused by plunging oil prices.

His government is being criticized for its recent budget that hit Albertans with tax and

fee hikes, but spared corporations.

Prentice says a one per cent increase in corporate taxes would result in the loss of 9,000 jobs. He says such a tax increase would hit small businesses hard — many of which employ fewer than 50 people.

Prentice says plans by the other parties to increase corporate taxes and spending are unrealistic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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It's time to break up

GREATER CALGARY

You can't please all of the people all of the time



Mike Morrison
For Metro | Calgary

Earlier this week, after a few left turns, I ended up in the tiny town of Seton. I had never heard of it before, but it has a grocery store, a few shops and a handful of independent restaurants. Its proximity to Calgary likely makes it a popular destination for young families.

So imagine my surprise when I realized the town of Seton wasn't a town at all, but is actually a neighbourhood of Calgary. "But it's so far away!" I thought.

Baffled, I pulled out a map. The town of Chestermere is closer to Calgary's city hall than Seton is. And from where I live in Kensington, I can actually get

to Cochrane faster than I can Seton. Yet Seton and its neighbours in Cranston, Chaparral and Walden are all considered a part of Calgary. But I'm not sure why.

I couldn't help but think about recent city hall debates about bridges and bike lanes, and I have to admit that I find it strange that people who live so far away from downtown Calgary get an equal say in what happens in the core. And vice versa.

Even though I didn't know Seton was a part of Calgary,

that's enough. Any new communities will be exactly that: their own communities."

In Toronto, the suburb-electorate is largely to blame for the Rob Ford debacle. He spoke to it. And when you're running for mayor, you don't need the whole city to like you. You just need enough votes to win. The way things are set up now, Calgary could very easily have a Rob Ford-esque mayor in 2017.

I actually think Vancouver is doing it right. While practically living on top of each other, Surrey couldn't

graphically as big a city as Calgary is now, we need to start thinking about things differently.

So what would splitting Calgary up look like? Well, we've become accustomed to quadrants, so that makes part of it easy. But that doesn't solve the urban-versus-suburban debate.

So for now, I say we go with the Car2Go home area as the new City of Calgary. Sorry, Forest Lawn — I really do love International Avenue. I promise to come visit.

Now, I get that this is a big idea. There are issues like taxes and police and fire departments. But wouldn't it be great if we figured out a way to stop wasting so much time trying to seek the approval of 100 per cent of the population and instead focused on our own geographical needs and wants?

By splitting us up, I think it might actually bring us together.

Mike Morrison writes
Mike's Bloggity Blog and
tweets from @mikesbloggity.

“When you're geographically as big a city as Calgary is now, we need to start thinking about things differently.”

in theory I could call up my city councillor and tell them how much money should be spent on the roads 45 minutes from my home.

Since then I've been thinking about how we should call it quits. As a city, I mean. What if we said, "OK,

be more different from Vancouver. The two have two different and separate municipal governments. If you like what Surrey has to offer, chances are you won't like Vancouver.

And the same goes for Calgary. When you're geo-



Police are seeking information on this Pontiac Grand Prix, captured on video, in relation to a 2014 murder. CONTRIBUTED

CRIME

Police release new details in homicide

Calgary police released new details Thursday about a 2014 homicide in an attempt to bring charges against four men they believe are responsible. According to a release, officers responded to a business in the 4700 block of Westwinds Drive N.E. where a man and a woman were closing for the day on Oct. 8, 2014.

At roughly 9:40 p.m., Maqsood Ahmed, 55, was leaving the business with cash and receipts when he was attacked by two men who stabbed and robbed him, police say.

He was taken to hospital but later died as a result of

his injuries.

Detectives have been able to identify four persons of interest in the case, but they're not co-operating with investigators.

One vehicle alleged to have been used during the attack, a 1999 Toyota Solara, was located in the community of Castlebridge. Police said a search of the car has "gleaned significant forensic evidence."

Investigators are now looking for a second vehicle, a 2006 to 2008 silver Pontiac Grand Prix that was captured on surveillance video before the attack. METRO

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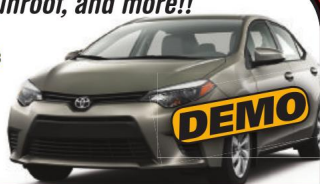
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Missing: Aussie's didgeridoo

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instrument vanished after performance at Mugs Pub



Morgan Modjeski
Metro|Calgary

An Australian expat living in

Calgary says he was devastated after he lost his handcrafted didgeridoo following a gig at Mugs Pub on March 29.

Shane Ford, also known by his stage name Shane K-Oz (short for crazy Aussie), said the instrument went missing between the end of his gig and his return trip home.

"It's a game changer," he said of the instrument. "It changed my life, it really

gave me a strong interest in music and it says a lot about me and where I'm from."

Ford said he was "shattered" when he realized the instrument was missing, as he had handcrafted the instrument roughly 15 years ago.

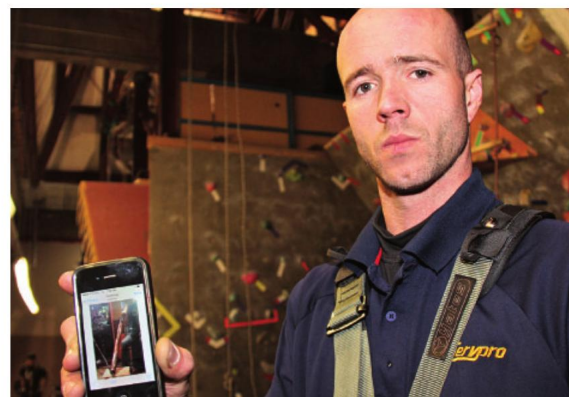
While Ford doesn't know for sure if it was misplaced or if it was stolen, he's sure he wants it back and now he's taking his plea to the

public.

Posting a call for assistance on Facebook, Ford says friends have been sharing the message constantly and said he's still hopeful it will be returned.

"It would be like finding a long-lost best friend."

He asked anyone with information about the whereabouts of the didgeridoo to contact Shane K-Oz through Facebook.



Shane Ford holds a photo of his didgeridoo. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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CRIME

RCMP find stolen truck with unique car doors



Robson Fletcher
Metro|Calgary

Alberta RCMP located a unique black truck with "Lamborghini" style doors in Red Deer Thursday that they believe is connected to a shooting in Stettler on Tuesday.

Tips from the public poured in after police released a photo of the unusual vehicle Thursday, which they said was stolen during a dispute that led to a 29-year-old man from Red Deer being shot.

The man suffered injuries that were not life-threatening but still serious enough to require a helicopter transport to

Foothills Hospital in Calgary for treatment.

Police initially arrested a 27-year-old male, a 22-year-old male and an 18-year-old female from a Stettler residence on Tuesday and said charges were pending, but revised that Thursday, saying all three had been released without charge.

The Mounties then asked the public for help in locating the unusual truck, described as a black four-door Ford F250 Super Duty diesel pickup.

Police cautioned anyone who sees the vehicle to not approach it or its occupants, "as they may be armed and dangerous."

There was no immediate word on additional arrests.



Mounties in Stettler, Alta., were looking for this stolen truck after a shooting and later found it in Red Deer. CONTRIBUTED

IN BRIEF

Suspicious package report at Harry Hays

Calgary police cleared a scene at the Harry Hays building after a report of a suspicious package on Thursday morning.

Sgt. Cory Ma with the CPS said officers were unable to find any sort of package in the area, and as a result, police are now focusing their investigation on the source of the call.

"There was nothing found, so we cleared the building itself," he said.

METRO

Strip mall blaze forces evacuation of nearby stores

Firefighters put out a blaze in a commercial strip mall in northeast Calgary Thursday afternoon.

No injuries were reported in the fire, which broke out at about 3 p.m. in the 3600 block of 29 Street NE. The fire department received "multiple calls" by people who noticed smoke pouring from the building. Employees at neighbouring businesses had to leave due to the smoke but were later cleared to re-enter. METRO

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Jayleen Flatt, right, and Brooklynn Comeau learn about dairy cows during the Calgary Stampede's Aggie Days event. Over the week, kids and families had a chance to learn about where food comes from and how it's produced. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

Where does your food come from?

URBAN AGRICULTURE

'There's been a disconnect for such a long time': Farmer



Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Education around agriculture and food production has become increasingly important as Calgary continues to urbanize, farmers say.

Danielle Lee, a farmer and demonstrator at the Calgary Stampede's Aggie Days, said because there aren't a lot of opportunities to learn about

livestock in the city, events like Aggie Days are essential in teaching the public about where their food comes from.

"Calgary is a huge city and farms are further away now, so people are that much further removed from farming and agriculture," Lee explained. "I just think there's a greater importance in teaching people where their food comes from and how it's produced."

Permaculturist Carmen Lamoureux has built her own urban farm in Calgary, and said the estrangement of urbanites from their rural roots may be due in part to misconceptions about growing food within the city.

"The idea of growing your own food seems so overwhelm-

ing because there's been a disconnect for such a long time," Lamoureux said. "We live in an urban society. A lot of young families don't really get out of the city and don't have any idea where their food comes from."

Lamoureux added that despite the difficulties living in a city can present when learning about agriculture, she has seen a resurgence of a commitment to local food production. She said she also thinks a city the size of Calgary could benefit from a centre for sustainable agriculture, which would facilitate year-round learning about urban farming and agriculture.

"Certainly the more young children get exposed to urban agriculture the better," Lamoureux said.

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Fans erupt as Flames clinch playoff spot

NHL

Team ends six-year drought with 3-1 win over Kings



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's Scotiabank Saddledome was buzzing with NHL excitement like the city hasn't seen in six years Thursday night.

And things are just getting started.

In front of a raucous sold-out crowd, the Calgary Flames punched their ticket to the playoffs for the first time since 2009, with an electric 3-1 victory over their divisional rivals, the Los Angeles Kings, who are now eliminated from the post season.

The Flames, meanwhile, are guaranteed at least two more playoff games at home, reviving a post-season dream that many fans, like Scott Eadie, thought wouldn't come so soon.

"I knew that eventually they would be (back in the playoffs) but I didn't think it would be this year," he said at the Saddledome Thursday night. "It's all gravy right now. I'm just glad that we've got a good team again."

His sister Laura Eadie was thrilled by the "very surprising" season for the young team, that has been in middle of a rebuild.

"I don't think anybody expected them to actually go this far this year," she said. "I'm really excited about it."

This will mark the first post-season appearance for the Flames since the 2008/09 NHL season, when the team qualified for the playoffs but lost in six games in the first round to the Chicago Blackhawks.



Flames fans celebrate a goal in the first period. The home team went on to beat the Los Angeles Kings by a 3-1 score to clinch a playoff berth. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

GROW CALGARY

City calls for end to urban farm projects

Calgary's urban farm is between a rock and a hard spot, as city building inspectors are calling for the demolition of three pet projects, as Grow Calgary's volunteer efforts are in danger of being reduced to rubble.

"We're well over 2,500 volunteer hours easily, from roughly 500 different people," said Paul Hughes of Grow Calgary. "Not everyone comes up here to plant."

The structures, which were meant for growing crops to be donated to the Calgary food bank, stand fenced in — as city officials worry about their safety.

"These structures are safe, and these materials should be on the table as far as alternative building materials," said Hughes.

The city says its hands are tied when it comes to the DIY structures, built without development permits, and constructed with materials outside the Alberta building code. When push comes to shove, Ross McDougall, chief building inspector for the city said the greenhouse, earthship and "pallet palace" simply aren't up to snuff.

"We're prepared to go to what's called the safety code



File photo of Grow Calgary's earthship, built in the fall.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

act order," said McDougall. "The city could actually go in under the safety codes act and remove the buildings."

Complaints about the farm's structures date back to October, when Ward Sutherland's constituents complained about an "unsightly mess." From there, the city investigated, and McDougall said conversations have been ongoing ever since.

Hughes said the farm is in talks with several city departments with mixed messages, adding safety is one of their primary concerns.

For Grow Calgary, Hughes said demolition is not on the table. They are working hard to find an alternative, to save their structures and get back to growing food for the needy. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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2013 FORD EDGE SEL AWD <small>2726 • 42,000 KM</small> 	2012 FORD EXPEDITION MAX <small>1401A • 62,000 KM • LIMITED</small> 	2013 F150 XLT CREW 4X4 <small>7726 • 24,000 KM • LONG BOX • 5.0L V8</small> 	2013 FORD EDGE LIMITED <small>E-2200A • 40,000 KM</small> 	2011 LINCOLN MKX AWD <small>14091 • 10,000 KM</small>
\$24,977 \$179/BW	\$34,977 \$248/BW	\$24,995 \$179/BW	\$29,995 \$213/BW	\$24,488 \$198/BW
2009 FORD EDGE LIMITED <small>E370A • 139,000 KM</small> 	2010 F150 XTR CREW 4X4 <small>E-2435A • 76,000 KM</small> 	2014 FORD ESCAPE SEL <small>2725 • 6,000 KM • HW • SUNROOF • LEATHER</small> 	2012 FORD FIESTA SE <small>E-505A • 53,000 KM</small> 	2014 FORD EDGE SEL <small>14001 • 5,800 KM • APPEARANCE PACKAGE</small>
\$17,495 \$165/BW	\$21,088 \$171/BW	\$32,988 \$234/BW	\$12,495 \$92/BW	\$30,977 \$220/BW
2014 FORD EDGE SEL <small>14016 • 30,000 KM • APPEARANCE PACKAGE</small> 	2011 F150 KING RANCH CREW <small>E-2334A • 26,000 KM</small> 	2013 FORD ESCAPE SE <small>E-2642A • 30,000 KM • 2.0L</small> 	2010 LINCOLN MKX <small>FK-00A • 90,000 KM • HW • MOONROOF • LEATHER</small> 	2014 LINCOLN MKX <small>14040 • 15,000 KM • CERTIFIED</small>
\$30,977 \$220/BW	\$34,930 \$280/BW	\$23,988 \$171/BW	\$19,988 \$163/BW	\$45,488 \$332/BW
2014 LINCOLN MKX <small>14040 • 22,000 KM • CERTIFIED</small> 	2011 LINCOLN MKX <small>27262 • 72,000 KM</small> 	2013 F150 KING RANCH CREW <small>F-760A • 90,000 KM</small> 	2008 FORD TAURUS X <small>11050A • 95,000 KM</small> 	2011 MAZDA 3 <small>F-504A • 51,000 KM</small>
\$45,488 \$332/BW	\$30,425 \$224/BW	\$34,988 \$248/BW	\$12,495 \$119/BW	\$12,995 \$108/BW

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Airdrie residents ask city council for feline bylaw

ANIMAL CONTROL

Cat owners don't have to register their animals



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Airdrie residents are asking city council to reconsider their latest draft of an animal control bylaw that still overlooks cats, allowing owners to get away with what they say is irresponsible pet ownership.

With no shelter, nor a bylaw in place to control the frisky felines, some residents are expressing concern that cats are roaming Airdrie streets, causing nuisance.

Unlike dogs, Airdrie cat owners don't have to register their pets and aren't limited to how many they own.

Mayor Peter Brown said the city uses an educational approach, asking owners to be responsible for their cats, adding that his favourite "ward away" method is a hose.

"It's been an issue," Brown admitted. "It's certainly something we're going to be talking about as we move forward."

Darryl Poburan, manager of municipal enforcement with the RCMP, said the city has done some consultation on the proposed new rules, and a fraction of participants voiced the need to include cats in the animal bylaw. The results of public consultation will be brought to council later in April.

By his count, there are about



Residents are saying cats cause a nuisance by roaming the streets. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES FILE

15,000 cats in the city.

Airdrie spends about \$200,000 a year enforcing the dog provisions under its animal-control bylaw, Poburan said.

But residents are also concerned about the well being of neighbourhood kitties without a section in city bylaw to hold owners accountable.

Linda Graham said she rescued an abandoned kitten about seven years ago.

She's also had issues with neighbours allowing their cats to roam the neighbourhood, and noted one instance, in particular, where her neighbour's unfixed cat was left behind in a move.

"The only thing we were

told we could do is trap the animals and take them to Calgary," Graham said. "I was angry that responsibility was being left to me and my neighbours to do the dirty work."

The city website encourages neighbours to hash out cat issues amongst themselves and to communicate with pet owners about any problems

before trapping and transporting cats.

"We need a cat bylaw in Airdrie," Graham said. "I'm not saying all cat owners are irresponsible, but something needs to be done to make sure people are responsible, that cats are being looked after, being licensed and not left to roam."

CITY INITIATIVE

Roads to receive spring cleaning

Calgary's dusty roads are about to be spruced up for spring as the city kicks off its seasonal clean-up program on Monday.

Over the course of the winter, approximately 61,000 tonnes of gravel and a sand-and-salt-coated gravel mixture called "pickle" were dispersed on Calgary roads, said city spokesperson Jessica Bell.

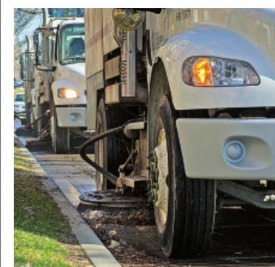
"That kind of puts into perspective what we have to pick up," Bell said.

With an unseasonably warm March, sweepers have been out for the past month, cleaning up streets where parking bans are already in place. Bell said the head start allowed them to complete 17 per cent of the 15,000 lane-kilometres of roadway.

"We look at (spring clean-up) as a collaborative effort between the citizens and the city," said Bell. "So in communities where there isn't an enforced parking ban, we're still asking Calgarians to move their cars."

According to Bell, the fine for not moving your vehicle from an area with a parking ban typically results in a \$50 ticket and the Calgary Parking Authority will often tow the vehicle to a nearby street.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO



Calgary's street sweeping program begins on Monday.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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Three of 13 police dogs in training whose names begin with H. THE CANADIAN PRESS/RCMP HANDOUT

H is for Hero: Police puppies get names

LAW ENFORCEMENT

More than 21,000 names submitted by public

Thirteen puppies in training to be police dogs now have names.

There were more than 21,000 entries from across Canada to this year's RCMP Name the Puppy contest.

Because of the unprecedented response, Insp. Andre Lemyre, who is in charge of police dog services, chose 13 winners representing every province and territory in Canada, not just 10 as originally planned.

All names had to start with the letter H and for multiple entries of the same name, winners were selected at random.

The 13 winners will each receive a certificate, a laminated photo of the puppy they named, a plush German Shepherd toy dog named Justice and an RCMP cap.

"Everyone at the centre was blown away by not only the number, but also the creativity of all the entries," said Lemyre.

"Congratulations to the 13 winners and my sincere thanks to every boy and girl who suggested a name."

RCMP police service dog teams search for missing or lost people, track and apprehend criminals, remove illicit drugs from the streets, detect explosives and search

+ MEET THE PUPS

The winning names are

Haley, Hammer, Hannah, Haven, Hawk, Herc, Hero, Hector, Hitch, Hooper, Hope, Hulk and Hunter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

for and recover evidence used in crimes.

The Police Dog Service Training Centre is the national training centre in Canada for all RCMP police dog teams.

Ninety-three per cent of the German Shepherds working as RCMP service dogs were born at the centre as part of the RCMP Police Dog Breeding Program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Social Progress Index ranks Canada sixth out of 133 countries

Canada continues to rank near the top of the world in a measure of social advancement that hopes to displace simple economic wealth — or gross domestic product — as the yardstick for national success.

The Social Progress Index, which is headed by Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter, delivered its third annual report Wednesday evening, ranking 133 countries on a basket of 52 different indicators.

Canada came in sixth overall as the most socially advanced country in the world — but was ranked first globally for offering its citizens what the

study broadly terms "opportunity," a group of indicators that include rights, freedoms, tolerance, and access to higher education.

"Canada's ranking as the world's sixth most socially progressive nation is testament to a strong performance across the board, with stand-out results for inclusion, thanks particularly to a high tolerance for religious minorities and immigrants," Michael Green, the executive director of the non-profit Social Progress Imperative, said in a release.

High Canadian adult literacy rates and a very low homicide

rate were also points of note.

Norway, the small Nordic country whose vast sovereign wealth fund built on oil and gas revenues has been frequently contrasted in recent months to Alberta, was ranked as the world's most socially advanced nation, followed by Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland and New Zealand to round out the top five.

Two areas in which Canada does not excel are "ecosystem sustainability" — rated 48th among 133 countries — and "access to information and communication" — where Canada placed 25th. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jean-Pierre Blais, CRTC chairman, delivers a speech at a Canadian Club of Ottawa event at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Canadians' bandwidth needs gauged

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CRTC makes ready for ever-growing internet use

Canada's telecom regulator is asking Internet users whether they're getting enough speed — and enough bang for their buck.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has launched a major fact-finding process to assess whether Canada has the right telecommunications to be a world-class player in the digital economy.

It wants to know what services Canadians need to be digitally competitive, what kind of upload and download speeds are needed, whether there should be funding tools in place for upgrading telecom equipment and how the industry players should be regulated.

The CRTC says it will gather information before holding public hearings on the issue a year from now.

The regulator says it also wants to find out what areas of the country are being underserved by digital technology.

Under current CRTC policies, Canadians in every region are expected to have access to a low-speed Internet connection, at a minimum.

But as more government and public services are moved online,

the regulator said, it's concerned that not everyone will benefit from such things as digital banking, health and other services.

"As our habits change in this digital age, our telecommunications services must keep pace," CRTC chairman Jean-Pierre Blais said in a statement.

"Canadians are looking to the future, and the CRTC wants to ensure that the technology they depend on does so as well," he said.

The CRTC also expressed concerns about the pressure being placed on existing services from new emerging technologies, such as so-called smart meters used by municipal and provincial utilities to measure energy, water or natural gas consumption.

Those meters, like so many other things, require broadband access.

The consultations were announced in tandem with the release of a report on the Canadian satellite services market.

The report, prepared by CRTC commissioner Candice Molnar, found that communities dependent on satellites for Internet access rely almost exclusively on Telesat's satellite network.

The CRTC said it will hold a separate public consultation to review Telesat's current price ceiling, based on Molnar's recommendations, to determine whether the ceiling is "still appropriate in light of current market conditions and future projections." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SASKATCHEWAN

Beaten boy died of head blows: pathologist

A medical expert says a six-year-old boy who was beaten to death by an older child on a Saskatchewan reserve had injuries similar to those seen in high-speed car crashes or a 10-metre fall.

Dr. Shaun Latham testified Thursday at a coroner's inquest into the death of Lee Bonneau, who was found with head injuries in a wooded area on the Kahkewistahaw reserve in 2013.

He was last seen walking with an older boy outside a recreation

complex while his foster mother was playing bingo.

Latham, who is a forensic pathologist, said the cause of Lee's death was blunt force trauma to the head causing multiple skull fractures.

Saskatchewan's children's advocate determined that the 10-year-old boy who killed Lee had behavioural issues and probably should not have been in the community unsupervised. Because he was under 12, he

could not be charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The inquest also heard from Alicia Ward, the child protection worker in charge of Lee's case. The child had been in the care of the Ministry of Social Services for less than three months when he died.

The inquest has heard there were concerns about domestic violence in Lee's home, and the boy was taken into care after his mother told a Social Services

worker she wanted to commit suicide.

Under questioning from coroner's council Sonya Guiboche, Ward acknowledged her office was dealing with a heavy case load at the time and needed more staff.

She conceded an assessment of the family had been delayed, but denied the delay made a difference in getting the boy back sooner.

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POLITICS**Harper to question allies about Iran deal: Sources**

A skeptical Harper government will be pressing some of Canada's closest allies about their deal to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The Canadian Press has learned Prime Minister Stephen Harper will likely discuss the Iran deal this weekend while he and U.S. President Barack Obama are in Panama for the Summit of the Americas.

Sources also say Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson will discuss the issue next week when G7 foreign ministers meet in the German city of Lubeck. Nicholson has already released a statement expressing skepticism about the deal reached by six countries with Iran to curb its nuclear program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP launch complaint against Liberal leader

In a case of political tit for tat, the NDP is seeking an investigation into Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's alleged improper use of parliamentary premises for partisan purposes.

The NDP's complaint comes one day after the Liberals sought an investigation into NDP MPs' allegedly inappropriate use of their taxpayer-funded constituency offices to campaign for re-election.

Both complaints have been sent to House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer, who chairs the multi-party board of internal economy, which polices how Commons resources are spent.

In a letter Thursday to Scheer, Windsor NDP MP Brian Masse raises "serious concerns" about a Liberal caucus meeting on Parliament Hill last June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**OTTAWA GUARDING THE GUARDS**

Ottawa Police Const. Santiago De Los Santos watches over the National War Memorial as sentries return to their post for their first day on Thursday. The Department of Defence has hired the Ottawa Police Service to guard the sentries, after Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a reservist guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was shot and killed by a gunman while on sentry duty on Oct. 22, 2014. The Department of National Defence is paying the Ottawa police an estimated \$425,000 for uniformed officers to protect the sentries beginning this week and running until mid-November.

JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. team develops antibody for cancer

Researchers at the University of B.C. have developed an antibody that can slow the ability of aggressive tumours to grow and spread to different parts of the body.

Early testing in mice shows the antibody has the ability to "knock down" aggressive tumour cells and their ability to migrate and spread to other parts of the body, said Dr. Kelly McNagny of UBC's Biomedical Research Centre.

"It's all looking great," McNagny told Metro. "It's human cells in a mouse model, but we're excited about the idea of now developing more antibodies that we could start using to treat patients."

Developed in collaboration with the Centre for Drug Research and Development, the antibody works by targeting podocalyxin, a protein marker found in many highly aggressive tumours. Podocalyxin is associated with about five per cent of breast cancers, most ovarian cancers and some types of colon, renal and bladder cancers. Earlier studies on the protein marker have shown that its presence in tumours is linked to low survival rates. McNagny and his team recently discovered that inhibiting podocalyxin dramatically slowed the growth and metastasis of aggressive tumours in mice.

"That's why we're excited about it," he said. "It seems to get rid of the cells that are residual and that move around to set up shop in other places."

If the antibody proves successful in humans, McNagny said it could be used as a treatment to prevent aggressive tumours from spreading further.

"It could be used to block late stage disease," he said. "If you can catch people before the disease has metastasized to show that this protein is on their tumours, this would be a great way of preventing that late stage metastasis."

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO IN VANCOUVER

The bill for beauty

DUFFY TRIAL**Questions arise over who paid for makeup services**

The prime minister might have had his makeup done alongside Sen. Mike Duffy in 2010 on one of their many appearances together, but a government source says the taxpayer didn't pick up the tab for that type of service.

Still, one month earlier, taxpayers did foot the bill for Stephen Harper's makeup artist to travel overseas for the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

The fact that Harper and Duffy employed the services of the same makeup artist surfaced in court earlier this week.

Defence lawyer Donald Bayne said Tuesday that Duffy had his makeup done for a G8/G20 national youth caucus event in 2010 and that Harper received the same service that day.

"The \$300 (contract) paid not only Sen. Duffy's perfectly standard makeup for television — it's always done — but Ms. Lambert made up the prime minister of Canada," Bayne said in court.

"There's no way the G8 conference was not validly related to Sen. Duffy's public business."

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to comment on a matter before the court but did say that "these services are not paid for by taxpayers."

In fact, the taxpayer has picked up bills in the past for another Harper stylist, and around the same time period.

+ QUESTIONS

The NDP once tabled an official question in the House of Commons on who paid Muntean's salary, and was told that no such contract existed. Harper's team said the party paid for her salary.

Michelle Muntean travelled around the world with Harper, applying makeup, styling hair, selecting clothing and trimming nails.

In 2007, Harper's office told The Canadian Press that Muntean's expenses were covered by the Conservative party.

But the Public Accounts of Canada, the government's annual spending report, tell a different story: the Department of Foreign Affairs paid her travel expenses, includ-

ing flights, meals and accommodation.

The records for 2009-2010, for example, show Muntean travelled with Harper on 13 different trips.

In May 2010, the records show that she accompanied Harper to the Netherlands.

Duffy's payment of Lambert occurred through an unusual \$65,000 master contract that he had arranged with Gerald Donohue, a former broadcasting friend.

Through that umbrella fund, Donohue's company paid out other service providers, including Lambert.

The Crown has alleged Duffy set up that system so that Senate finance officials could not see how he was spending taxpayer money. But Bayne has argued that Duffy is guilty of nothing more than administrative process irregularities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Derek Smith, 14, looks at the shattered rear window of his mom's car that was busted out by hail slightly smaller than a tennis ball in downtown Farmington, Mo., Wednesday.

DAVID CARSON/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Midwest bears down

EXTREME WEATHER

'Enhanced risk' of hail, high winds, tornadoes

A broad swath of the Midwest is girding for hail, damaging winds and possibly tornadoes as a strong storm front continues to rumble east.

The National Weather Service's "enhanced risk" area Thursday stretches from northeast Texas to the upper Midwest. Forecasters say Philadelphia, Washington and other parts of

the Atlantic coast could see the same weather patterns Friday.

In Milwaukee, an interstate was closed for several hours Thursday morning after several vehicles became partially submerged in flood water due to heavy rain.

Tornadoes were reported Wednesday and early Thursday in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, but those areas saw minimal damage from the year's first widespread bout of severe weather.

In central Indiana, a 75-year-old woman died Wednesday night after being swept into a rain-swollen creek near Indianapolis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

GM's hybrid sales a bust

General Motors will stop making the Chevrolet Volt for four weeks in June and July due to slow sales and to deal with the change to an all-new version of the gas-electric hybrid car.

Sales of electric and hybrid cars have slowed this year, largely due to low gasoline prices. The national average for a gallon of regular gas was about \$2.40 on Thursday, 35 per cent lower than last year's peak of \$3.70. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record fine for gas pipeline explosion

California's largest power utility says it won't appeal a record \$1.6 billion penalty from the state for a 2010 gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people in a San Francisco suburb.

Utility regulators approved the penalty against Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Thursday.

PG&E CEO Tony Earley says in a statement that the utility's focus would be on completing safety improvements in its natural-gas operations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENYA

Police urge citizens to resist militants

Kenyans confronted by armed Islamic extremists should fight back and avoid being killed "like cockroaches," a senior police official said Thursday at a Nairobi morgue holding the bodies of some of the 148 people who died in last week's attack on a college.

Some Kenyans, however, said it was difficult to expect civilians to resist militants and that it was the government's responsibility to protect them. The

Kenyan government has faced criticism for an allegedly slow response by security forces to the April 2 attack on Garissa University College in eastern Kenya.

Many of those who died likely had no chance or any means to fight back effectively. The assailants were heavily armed and, according to survivors, were swift and ruthless while gunning down unarmed, terrified students.

"If something happens like that, fight back," Pius Masai Mwachi, a Kenyan police superintendent, said to journalists.

The four gunmen died when an elite team of police commandoes entered the campus.

Any Kenyans who fall into the hands of militants should not allow themselves to be divided along ethnic and religious lines, "like what happened in the Garissa attack," Mwachi also said.

Survivors say gunmen from the al-Shabab extremist group targeted Christian students for killing after separating them from Muslims, though there were also many accounts of indiscriminate shooting.

"It's not the work of the citizens to protect themselves," said human rights activist Boniface Mwangi said, citing a "social contract" that requires the government to safeguard its people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PARIS

Prosecutor's office opens terrorism investigation

Hackers claiming allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seized control of a global French television network, simultaneously blacking out 11 channels and taking over the network's website and social-media accounts. The attack appeared to be an unprecedented step in the extremist group's information-warfare tactics.

The hackers briefly cut transmission of 11 channels belonging to TV5 Monde and took over its websites and social-media accounts starting Wednesday night. The channel's director, Yves Bigot, said the attack continued into Thursday. He told RTL radio that the network has restored its signal but can only

broadcast recorded programs.

The Islamic extremist group has claimed complex hackings before, but experts and a French official said the ability to black out a global television network represented a new level of sophistication for the group. The Paris prosecutor's office said Thursday it has opened a terrorism investigation into the attack.

Bigot said he was shaken when he saw the black screen across the network's broadcasts "and when we discovered the sense of the message appearing on our social media and our websites, it both allowed us to understand what was happening and obviously worried us."

The message on the TV5 Monde website read in part "I am IS" with a banner by a group that called itself Cybercaliphate. It was replaced later Thursday by a simple message saying that it was undergoing maintenance.

Hackers claiming to work on behalf of ISIL have seized



TV5 employees work in Paris on Thursday after the French television network was hacked by people claiming allegiance to ISIL. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

control of the Twitter accounts of other media, such as Newsweek, and in January they hacked into the Twitter page and YouTube site of the U.S. military's Central Command.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls, on his Twitter account, called the attack "an unacceptable insult to freedom of information and expression," and French

government ministers visited the channel's Paris headquarters Thursday.

TV5 Monde, which was founded by the French government in 1984 and calls itself the "worldwide French cultural channel," broadcasts news and other programs produced in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLICE BRUTALITY

Critics want abuse claims monitored

The fatal shooting of an unarmed black man fleeing from a police officer has stirred outrage around the nation, but people in the South Carolina city of North Charleston aren't surprised, calling it inevitable for a police department they believe focuses on petty crimes and fails to keep its officers in check.

There is almost nothing in Michael Thomas Slager's police personnel file to suggest that his bosses considered him a rogue officer capable of murdering a man he pulled over for a broken tail light. People in the community he served say this reflects what's

going wrong with policing today: officers nearly always get the last word when citizens complain.

The mostly black neighbourhood in North Charleston where Slager fired eight shots at the back of Walter Lamer Scott on Saturday is far from unique in this regard, said Melvin Tucker, a former FBI agent and police chief in four southern cities who often testifies in police misconduct cases.

Civil-rights leaders want North Charleston to create an independent citizens review board to review complaints against police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

French protesters march in nationwide strikes

Thousands of protesters, many blowing whistles and waving union flags, marched through Paris and other French cities on Thursday in a day of nationwide strikes that kept many children out of school, forced the closure of the Eiffel Tower and cancelled some 2,000 flights in

and out of France.

Stepping up pressure on President Francois Hollande's already-unpopular Socialist government, the protesters aired an array of grievances against state funding cuts, planned increases in the retirement age and business-friendly reforms that could make firing workers easier.

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Fed bankers meet pot business

INVESTMENT

Marijuana still illegal under U.S. federal law

A federal banking official took the unprecedented step Thursday of meeting with marijuana business owners, as the pot

business awaits word on setting up its own bank.

Kansas City Federal Reserve president Esther George held a closed-door meeting with about 20 representatives of the marijuana industry.

The meeting was arranged by two Colorado congressmen who have tried unsuccessfully to pass laws expanding banking access for the marijuana

industry, Democratic Reps. Ed Perlmutter and Jared Polis.

Federal authorities have released guidelines to banks about how to accept pot-related clients, but most banks have declined.

Banks routinely reject pot businesses for even basic services such as checking accounts because they fear running afoul of federal law, which

considers marijuana and its proceeds illegal.

Colorado awarded a license last year to a credit union to serve the industry. But the Fourth Corner Credit Union can't start taking deposits without clearance from the Federal Reserve. The application has been on hold in the Kansas City office, and pot workers planned to urge

George to approve the application.

The marijuana industry currently relies on a hodge-podge of banking work-arounds, from changing accounts frequently using innocuous-sounding names to hiring armed guards to ferry truckloads of cash.

"My concern is that somebody's going to get killed before change is made," said

Charles Smith, chief operating officer for Denver-based Dixie Brands Inc., which makes marijuana-infused sodas and candies.

In a statement, the Federal Reserve spokesman didn't say where Fourth Corner's application stood or why George was meeting with marijuana business owners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ORANGE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN ON FERRIS WHEEL
Cody Hesser, 32, at the top of the Orlando Eye during Special Operation Program Training Wednesday. Orange County Fire Rescue is training possible team members on the new 400-foot tall wheel. RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Prison seeks answers after inmate dies without dialysis

Utah's prison director said Thursday that he'll fire someone if needed after he investigates the death of an inmate who went without dialysis for two days when providers failed to show up for treatment.

Rollin Cook, the executive director of Utah's Department of Corrections, told The Associated Press that it's too early to say if someone will be fired. Depending "upon the investigation, if that's one of the corrective actions that needs to happen, of course we will take

that," Cook said.

Cook said the prison has Spanish-speaking staff available to inmates, but he doesn't know if any were on hand when 62-year-old Ramon C. Estrada didn't get dialysis treatment on Friday and Saturday.

Estrada was from Mexico and relied on translators while in court on rape charges and at a 2008 parole hearing.

He died Sunday at the prison from an apparent heart attack related to kidney failure. He would have been paroled on April 21.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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IN BRIEF

Bell Media president out
Bell Media president Kevin Crull abruptly left his post Thursday, two weeks after he admitted to trying to influence national news coverage. A corporate statement announcing his departure left little doubt of the link between Crull leaving and his interference in CTV's coverage of the broadcast regulator.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GADGETS

Apple Watch ready for online orders

Buying an Apple Watch won't be as simple as walking into an Apple store and handing over your credit card.

The smartwatch comes in 54 configurations — more than any other Apple gadget. So starting Friday, Apple stores will have staff trained to help you choose. You'll then have to place your order for shipping starting April 24.

If you know the specific configuration you want, you're best off ordering it online, starting at 12:01 a.m. PDT Friday (3:01 a.m. EDT). There won't be an in-store pick-up option.

Besides the United States, the watch is available to customers in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong

Kong, Japan and the United Kingdom.

For the most part, watches will be available for viewing when stores open Friday, so many overseas stores will actually show the watch before orders are accepted.

Only some stores will carry the 18-karat gold luxury models known as Edition. When you make the try-on reservation, you'll have to specify whether you're looking for these models or the cheaper ones. Specialists will handle these luxury appointments. If you're just interested in seeing them, all stores will have them for viewing in glass cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canadians sue U.S. sperm bank

GEORGIA

Ontario couple claim donor details were incorrect

A U.S. sperm bank said Thursday it did not verify the personal information of a donor used by a Canadian couple who are now suing the company, alleging they were never told the man was a schizophrenic with a criminal record.

In an open letter, the president of Xytex Corp. said a careful review of its records had determined the Canadian couple's claims "do not reflect" the information the donor provided to the company.

"We stand by the process we

followed and intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations," Kevin M. O'Brien said in the letter.

Port Hope, Ont., residents Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson allege that Xytex told them their choice of donor was a healthy man with multiple degrees who was "among their best donors."

In a statement of claim filed with a Georgia court, the couple alleges they only accidentally learned the identity of their donor — years after their son was born. Through their own research, they contend, they realized the donor, James Christopher Ageles, was a college dropout who had been arrested for burglary at one point and had schizophrenia.

None of the allegations contained in the statement of claim

have been proven in court.

Xytex claims it has done nothing wrong.

The company said it wanted to assure the public that claims it misled a client are "simply not true."

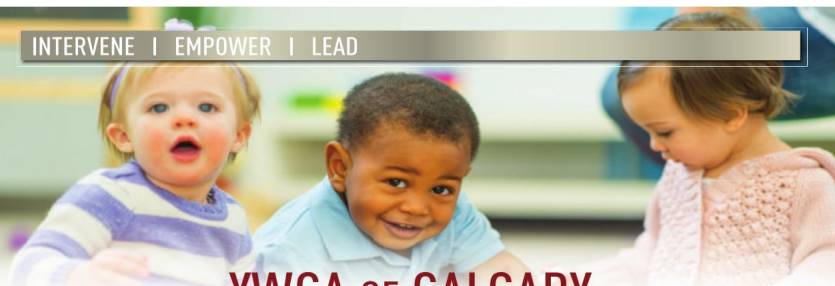
"We followed thorough procedures to review the health of the donor. As you may know, this vetting process eliminates 99 per cent of the potential donors who apply to Xytex," O'Brien explained in his letter.

"In this case, the donor underwent a standard medical exam and provided extensive personal and health information."

The suit states Ageles appears to have fathered 36 children. Lawyer Nancy Hersh said she had at least 15 other clients who may be joining the lawsuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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YWCA CALGARY

Flight delays surged in U.S.

There was a surge in long tarmac delays at American airports in February, including several during a snow storm in Dallas.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Thursday that 16 domestic flights were stuck on the ground for more than three hours and eight international flights were delayed more than four hours in February. Federal rules prohibit airlines from holding planes on the tarmac that long, and the department could issue fines.

Eleven of the long delays were American Airlines or American Eagle flights to or from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport during a Feb. 27 snow storm, the government said.



Passengers in Atlanta look at flight cancellations during a winter storm, in this Feb. 25 photo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overall, 72.8 per cent of flights arrived on time in February, down from 76.8 per cent in January but up from 70.7 per cent the previous February.

Alaska Airlines had the best on-time rating at 85.1 per cent. Envoy Air had the worst rating at 53.3 per cent.

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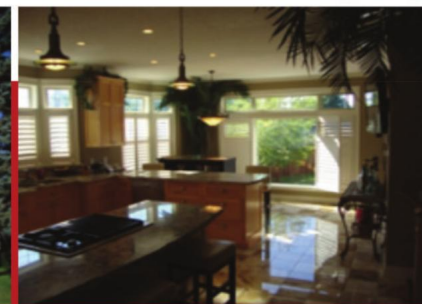
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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Women can get abortions, but individual women can't

I've never been faced with the abortion choice.

But if I ever have one, I know I'll fear the stigma and shame — not from the minority of pro-lifers in this country, but from within the pro-choice majority.

Abortion is framed as black and white. It's not. It's "thousands of different shades of grey," as a U.S. Vox Media survey released this week points out. Some people are both pro-choice and pro-life, and each draws the line in a different place.

That plays out in Canada, too: in a 2014 poll, 23 per cent of otherwise pro-choice Canadians said they feel we should have some restrictions on the procedure. We're also split on whether abortion should always be paid for, or only in medical emergencies.

Canadians gaze with scorn at the theatrical, divisive abortion politics of the U.S. We agree on women's right to choose, we congratulate ourselves. We applaud our reasonable laws, our legal, paid-for-by-the-government abortions.

But we are hypocrites. When it comes to supporting women who make that choice, we are silent. Women in general can get abortions. Not an individual woman.

There were 82,869 abortions in Canada in 2013. One-third of Canadian women will terminate a pregnancy. And yet I have personally only heard of two.

Of those two, only one was

a friend who told me of her abortion. It was hard for her to share, and it's now a vaulted secret. Our friends are pro-choice — as are 60 per cent of Canadians — but we both still worry about judgment.

There are public campaigns to dispel the shame around mental health, so people need not suffer from isolation or blame, but we say nothing about abortion.

Everyone has their own take on abortion, if they'd have one, when they might. For some women, it's a painful decision for which they might even shame themselves. These nuanced opinions creep into our health-care system and silence us among each other.

Canadian medical schools are failing to properly educate future doctors about abortion, due to both stigma and fear of offending students, according to journalist Danielle Groen, who's written about the issue.

Access to abortion varies widely across the country and is notoriously difficult outside major cities — a bias caused in part by fear of stigma and one that undermines our supposed legal right, noted longtime abortion activist Joyce Arthur. "It's one thing to have a right and really another thing to implement it," she said.

We've already said it's OK, so why does it still feel wrong? Because we don't have abortion "solved." We've only sewn up the politics. And until we work harder to diminish the shame, Canadian women will suffer.

TAP. TAP. TAP.



THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



Hi, my name is Rebecca and I'm an iAddict. This is a hard day for me because it's the day the Apple Watch goes on pre-order. I must stay strong.

The idea of the Apple Watch gives me a nervous breakdown. I already have a MacBook, an iPod, an iPhone and an iPad — this is not a humble brag, it's more a humiliating admission.

When the iPad came out, I felt like Goldilocks: "My laptop is too big and my iPhone is too small, but that iPad looks juuuusst right."

And now, Apple is releasing a watch that tells time, checks emails, takes calls and makes the Casio calculator watch I had in Grade 3 look like a joke.

Can I resist? And if I don't, what will happen to my social skills? What will happen to my credit card? And what will happen to my brain?

Sometimes I come home tired, wanting to relax. I'll sit on the couch and start scrolling through Netflix (ahem, on my Apple TV), then I'll hear my phone buzz. As I try to ignore that, I'll hear the bleep of a Facebook message coming through my computer, then the ding of a text and the chime of an email.

You know the feeling, right? It's both intriguing and exhausting, like "I wonder who that is" mixed with "Who the hell is that?"

You try to hold out, ignore them, but as you watch that old Friends episode, the buzzes and the beeps and the chimes gnaw at the back of your mind like a rat whose teeth resemble the end of a

USB cord. Finally, you give in and you check the messages, often to find they're disappointing or stressful. "Oh, an ad for a vagina enlargement." Or "great, a friendly reminder from my accountant that it's tax season."

If I can barely relax now, I feel like the Apple Watch will take over my life. The chimes and buzzes won't be across the room anymore, they'll be on my body. Tapping me — the Apple Watch doesn't vibrate, it taps — taunting me. Every text, every FB invite, every Instagram of my friend Cathy's new manicure ... tap, tap, tap.

Sometimes I feel like I'm in a psychological thriller; like social media is a psycho neighbour who keeps knocking on my door to tell me what colour Kim Kardashian's hair is. And though I know this, I can't resist answering

the door, just in case it's something else, something great.

I read an article recently about the fact that every time we check our messages or notifications or play Candy Crush, we get a hit of dopamine.

Dopamine is the same chemical released when a cocaine addict snorts a line or a smoker lights up. Though I'll be jealous of everyone that has one, I don't think I'll get an Apple Watch.

I'm already addicted, and the watch sounds like hooking myself up to an intravenous notification drip.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From **matrimonial marketing** to **suffocating welfare laws**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



Poultry pilgrimage

Two Canadian dads took their sons on a Kentucky Fried road trip of a lifetime. Travelling 3,400 kilometres from Montreal to the Harland Sanders Café and Museum in Kentucky, the families said three of the sons had never tried the crispy birds before and that they had never laughed so much in their lives. Goes to show that treating your fast food as an adventure can be amazing. Putting a ring on it, however ... (read on)



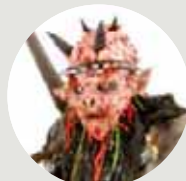
Speak now or forever hold the grease

... Joel Burger and Ashley King are getting married, and guess who offered to sponsor their wedding? That's right, the HOME OF THE WHOPPER® contacted the couple about footing their bill, and they said yes! We see big things for any hypothenated offspring resulting from this blessed union. Imagine having a multinational there from the start, sponsoring finger paintings, catering birthday parties (mini burgers, duh), paying college tuition. Couldn't be happier for Burger King. Whatever.



Heavy stuff

As if it wasn't sad enough when undying chaos-demon, Lord and Master of Earth and lead singer of GWAR Dave Brockie, a.k.a. Oderus Urungus, overdosed last March, the band is now being sued by Brockie's father. Dad says the other guys stole his son's remains, guitars and other stuff. He claims he asked for the return of all of Urungus's remains but instead got "a small fraction of his son's ashes, which were delivered in a used plastic bag with a Discover credit-card logo on it." The matter is tragically before the courts. But at least we'll always have the music.



Help the poor and needy

Some politicians are so petty and shortsighted that they can find no better use of their time than micromanaging the spending habits of the poor. If a new law passes, welfare recipients in Kansas won't be allowed to use their cash at pools, nail salons or movie theatres and will be barred from withdrawing more than \$25 a day at ATMs. This idea makes no moral or fiscal sense (you could probably get some pretty sweet nail decals for the same price as the fees you'd be paying on daily withdrawals), but when scapegoating the most vulnerable in society is your public-service priority, logic is mere trifle.



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Cashing in on our lust for love

ANALYSIS

Nicholas 'The Notebook' Sparks has yet another sticky sweet tale for us

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



Novelist Nicholas Sparks is the current king of romance writers. His flowery prose even gives Harlequin a run for their money in the three-hanky tearjerker department. Who else could write a line like, "Love is like the wind, you can't see it, but you can feel it," with a straight face?

He is to romance writing what Buckley's cough syrup is to a tickly throat. They both get the job done, but leave a sickly sweet aftertaste.

His best-known novel adaptation is *The Notebook*, a cross-generational love story that spent over a year as a New York Times hardcover top seller. Inspired by the story of his wife's grandparents' 60-year marriage, the novel became a 2004 movie starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams. The tale of love and Alzheimer's is emotionally manipulative (writer Gary Panton called this passionate weeper "mushier than a mushed-up bowl of mushy peas that's just



Scott Eastwood and Britt Robertson star in Nicholas Sparks' latest lovey affair, *The Longest Ride*. CONTRIBUTED

been mushed in an industrial-strength mushifier") but opening weekend it surfed a wave of tears to the box office Top 5.

Sparks, a former pharmaceutical salesman, writes tales of love and loss, of mighty obstacles overcome and lip-locks galore, which he defines as "dramatic epic love stories" along the lines of "Eric Segal's *Love Story* or *The Bridges of Madison County* ... But you can even go all the way back. You

had Hemingway write *A Farewell to Arms*, the movies of the '40s — *Casablanca*, *From Here to Eternity* — Shakespeare, and that's the genre I work in."

He caught some flack for comparing himself to Shakespeare — one writer said, "If Sparks is like Shakespeare, then a house painter is like Picasso" — but the fact remains that his unconventional love stories, his parcels of passion, have made

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Longest Ride ★★
Danny Collins ★★★
Cut Bank ★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT

his name synonymous with the romance genre.

This weekend, prepare for another flurry of Sparkisms—tear-stained romantic letters, lines like, "Love requires sac-

rifice but it's worth it," and passionate make-out sessions — as *The Longest Ride* hits the big screen.

This time around "two stories separated by time, con-

nected by fate," get Sparksified as the lives of a young couple, played by Scott "Clint's son" Eastwood and Britt Robertson and older lovebirds Alan Alda and Oona Chaplin, interlace. "I wish I could tell you it's all happily ever after," says Alda's character, "not everybody gets that."

Expect unexpected poignancy.

Critics haven't always warmed to Sparks's stories on film — *Safe Haven* with Julianne Hough as "a young woman's struggle to love again" has a paltry 12 per cent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while *The Best of Me* starring Michelle Monaghan and James Marsden as high school sweethearts reunited after two decades sits at a miserable eight per cent rating.

But audiences can't seem to get enough of his weepy tales of unrequited love, lost love, mature love and love in a time of trouble.

Ten of his books have already been adapted for the movies, with one more, *The Choice*, scheduled for 2016.

His style of romance has caught on, but don't call him a romance writer.

"I write dramatic fiction. If you go into a further subgenre, it would be a love story, but it has its roots in the Greek tragedies. This genre evolved through Shakespeare. He did *Romeo and Juliet*. Hemingway did *A Farewell to Arms*. I do this currently today."

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Gosling inspired by Detroit

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Lost River is about surviving in city that's falling apart



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Lost River is the debut effort by a new writer and director named Ryan Gosling. Maybe you've heard of him. He's Canadian or something. We sat down with Gosling to discuss why the story of a young man and his mother (starring Iain De Caestecker and Christina Hendricks) trying to survive in the economic wasteland of Detroit spoke to him so strongly.

What was it about this story that made it right for your directorial debut?

I had written something when I was in my early 20s about child soldiers, and it was because I had gone to Uganda and Sudan and I had an experience that I wanted to elaborate on. I tried for a while to get that film made and I just couldn't. I just wasn't in a place in my career where I could make that happen. Then, you know, life happened and I was in more films, and then suddenly I went to Detroit and I had a similar feeling where I just felt a real connection to the place and had an experience there that I wanted to share and elaborate on.



Ryan Gosling's *Lost River* is the Canadian actor's first directing credit. PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/WIREIMAGE

Sometimes you read a script and you feel like you could contribute by acting, and then sometimes you have an experience where it's, "If I don't write this, no one will."

Aside from Christina Hendricks and your partner, Eva Mendes, you've got a Brit, a Scot, an Irish woman and an Australian playing Detroit residents. What do you have against American actors?

For the most part, I'd worked with everybody before and I just wanted to work with my friends on this film, and most of them I had seen a side of

them that I hadn't gotten to see in their work, and so I wanted to write for that. But then there was this central character of Bones (De Caestecker), which was obviously the most important piece and the hardest to find, but Ian was so much more than what I'd hoped for. He just has a quality of wanting to highlight everyone else that's in the scene with him. He came (to Detroit) a month before hand and didn't tell anybody, started stripping copper in these buildings, and he walked every block of these neighbourhoods. He basically took

Landon as a younger brother. He just brought this authenticity to it but just kept it in his pocket.

What was the process of you for defining the visual language of this film?

I had a year — not a solid year, by any stretch — but over the course of a year I took some trips to Detroit on my own and I was filming. And that really helped me — in one way because I felt like I was making the movie, even if it was just me, but that it had started and the train had left the station and now I had to

finish. But it also helped me because now I had images that I knew were the film, not just inspiration for the film. I could show producers, actors, financiers, not "this is what it could be" but "this is what it is."

The drowned towns motif is such a striking visual.

I grew up next to a river where I had found a road leading into it, and that's how I learned that they had sunken a bunch of towns to make this river. That's sort of where that idea came from, but yeah, it's a totally surreal, true thing that happens, and it's very bizarre.

+ BACKGROUND

In *Lost River*, Christina Hendricks' character works in a macabre private sex-and-death club.

"It was based on the Grand Guignol and the Hell Cafe and the Death Cafe," says Gosling. "All of these were part of a macabre entertainment scene in Paris in the early 1900s. At the Grand Guignol, they would put on these horror shows, murder theatre where they would kill people on stage. It was fake but very realistic, and it gave birth to horror films. At that time, for whatever reason, there was this real macabre entertainment scene and fascination with death. We tried to root all the fantasy in this film in some form of reality, you know? So we used that as a big inspiration. But the idea was that in these sorts of places — after a natural disaster or, in this case, an economic disaster — they attract people who have dark fantasies because they can enact them in these places where no one's watching. You can get away with anything in these kinds of environments."



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The A-list guest list at Cannes

FILM FESTIVAL

Woody Allen, Cate Blanchett among celebs that may make it to France

With the Cannes Film Festival set to open in just over a month's time, speculation is swirling over which films — and which top directors and actors — could be getting their moment under the French Riviera sun.

Cannes's organizers jealously guard their selections for the competition lineup and the out-of-competition program until a month before the film fest opens. This year, the movies to be shown at Cannes will be announced on April 16, and the festival will run from May 13 to 24.

Woody Allen is seen as more than likely to be walking the red carpet with his new flick, *Irrational Man*, starring Joaquin Phoenix.

Cate Blanchett might also be along for her movie *Carol*. And fellow Oscar-winner Matthew

McConaughey could appear for *The Sea of Trees* the latest film by director Gus Van Sant, which also stars Naomi Watts.

The director of the festival, Thierry Fremaux, said last week "there is no more than a third of the selection definitively decided." He added he and his selection committee "watch the movies right to the end."

Cannes mixes international art-house cinema, Hollywood blockbusters, extravagant parties, industry wheeling and dealing, and eye-catching publicity stunts in a potent cocktail that has made it the pre-eminent global showcase for movies.

So far the only movie confirmed to be screened is *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The dystopian sci-fi movie, the fourth in the high-action *Mad Max* franchise and the first to star British actor Tom Hardy in the title role, will be shown out of competition on

May 14 just before its worldwide release.

Fury Road co-star Charlize Theron is expected to saunter up the red-carpeted steps. She could put on another dress for *The Last Face*, directed by Sean Penn and starring Theron and Javier Bardem.

THE SHORT LIST

The Cannes selection committee is screening 1,800 films — from start to end credits — to arrive at the short list for next month's festival

Harry Potter actress Emma Watson and *Boyhood* star Ethan Hawke might be along if *Regression*, by Spanish director Alejandro Amenabar (who made *The Others*, *The Sea Inside*) is selected.

Italy's flag could flutter over *Mia Madre*, the most recent picture by Nanni Moretti who won Cannes's top prize the *Palme d'Or* in 2001, or maybe *La Giovinezza* by Paolo Sorrentino, whose *Grande Bellezza* (*The Great Beauty*) won a foreign picture Oscar last year.

Asia, as always, is expected to be well represented. AFP



Mad Max: Fury Road, starring Charlize Theron, will be show in Cannes just before its wide release in May. CONTRIBUTED

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Director banks on 35mm magic

CUT BANK

Matt Shakman forges digital, gives up salary for debut film



Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Cut Bank director Matt Shakman has something in common with 35mm film fanatics Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino. For his movie debut the director insisted on shooting on film rather than digital.

"I'm an analogue kind of guy," he says. "To do this movie, which is about a town that feels trapped in a distant era, it felt right to shoot it on film. We had to find a way to deal with the financial impact of it, but I found a solution to that. I gave up my salary in order to do it."

"I'll only get a chance to make a first movie once and to make it on film feels special. I may never get a chance to do it again."

Set in the hamlet of Cut Bank, Mont., the action begins when auto mechanic Dwayne (Liam Hemsworth) accidentally videotapes the murder of the local postman (Bruce Dern). He reports the crime to the local sheriff (John Malkovich), hoping for reward money, but there are complications in the form of the suspicious father of his girlfriend (Billy Bob Thornton), a postal inspector (Oliver Platt) and a reclusive man (Michael Stuhlbarg) violently obsessed with getting his mail.

The script appeared on Hollywood's 2009 black list of the best unproduced films and has been in Shakman's hands for five years.

In the beginning he simply loved the twisty-turny story.

"Then," he says, "I (became) like a dog chasing a rabbit at the track. You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real."

"When someone like John Malkovich signs on it is so helpful for so many reasons. One, the pleasure, personally, of getting to work with one of my heroes. Two, he certainly helps tell other actors that this



You get these tantalizing elements that start to make everything feel more real.

Matt Shakman on making Cut Bank

is a party worth coming to and the third thing is just the business reality of having a person in the film who can help you with financing."

Shakman says he knows after the film's theatrical run "a lot of people will see Cut Bank on their iPads," and while he prefers the communal experience of watching movies with an audience, he knows times are changing.

"They'll also watch Breaking Bad (on their tablets), so the line has blurred very much between the two kinds of content. It's all just become stories and where you choose to find them and how you want them delivered."



Crime thriller Cut Bank stars Billy Bob Thornton and Liam Hemsworth. CONTRIBUTED

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When Kristen met Juliette

CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA

Stewart and Binoche talk film roles and easy rapport

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

When we spoke last October during the New York Film Festival, Kristen Stewart had not yet become the first American female actor to ever win a Cesar — France's equivalent of the Oscar — for Olivier Assayas' *Clouds of Sils Maria*. But she was still ecstatic about it. In the film she plays Valentine, the harried but cucumber-cool personal assistant of Maria Enders, a Juliette Binoche-like superstar played by Juliette Binoche. That allowed her to mock the film industry and the gossip machine from a safe remove. The two actresses paired together to talk about their rapport, and, in Binoche's case, to whip out

one hell of a laugh. **Juliette, your breakthrough, 1985's *Rendez-vous*, was written by Assayas, and you reunited for his 2008 film *Summer Hours*. You instigated this project. What was your original concept?**

Juliette Binoche: I wanted him to deal with the feminine. I didn't know exactly what it would be, but I was imagining these characters exchanging roles. I talked about Bergman. I said, "C'mon, you love Bergman! You made a book of interviews (from 2008)!" And I was a little frustrated on *Summer Hours*, as an actress. I thought he was shy and hiding. I said, "I was missing you!"

Kristen Stewart: It's like, "I want to know you!"

JB: "I want to know you," yeah! And he said to me, "Give me two weeks and I'll tell you whether I like it or not." Then he called me and said, "I have the subject." A year and a half later he gave me the script

It's pretty honest about what goes on in the life of a middle-aged actress. What was your reaction to it?



Juliette Binoche, left, plays a famous international actress struggling to deal with her next film, alongside her personal assistant, played by Kristen Stewart, in *Clouds of Sils Maria*. CONTRIBUTED

JB: I was shocked! I didn't expect it to be that way at all. I was provoking him (big, hearty laugh) and I got slapped back!

Kristen, you were supposed to be Jo-Ann, a younger actress ultimately played by Chloe Grace Moretz, but you

insisted on taking Valentine instead. Why was that?

KS: That part is fantastic, but it's just not for me. It was

something I knew so well that it wasn't interesting to me. I know Valentine so well, but I've never done it before. It'd

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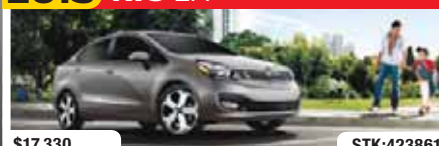
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The Power to Surprise

DIRECTOR'S TAKE OLIVIER ASSAYAS

Filmmaker Olivier Assayas was partly responsible for Juliette Binoche's big break, and she his: In 1985 she starred in *Rendez-vous*, co-written by Assayas, his first screen credit. In *Clouds of Sils Maria*, she plays a very Binoche-y star, who worries that she's finally being replaced by the young.

"It's not about the cruelty of aging. It's about how to deal with it," he says. "It's not about rivalry. It's about a woman who ... has to accept that she's in another place, and that eventually a younger actress will look at her the same way she looked at an older actress when she was young."



Olivier Assayas. GETTY IMAGES

be more interesting to say I gravitated towards the project because of the statements it made and the commentary that it is. But it was the emotional part that I really loved. And there's more irony and more layers steeped in her dialogue if it's coming out of my mouth. It's just the way it is. I've been there, I've been smack-dab in the middle. To directly address the media and talk about what precarious bulls — it can be sometimes and how we starvilyly consume people — that was fun. I had to erase the glee from my face while saying those lines. I had to try to not look so excited about it.

Your characters have such a comfortable rapport. How

did you develop that?

JB: We took some appointments to help us develop our relationship. (Big, hearty laugh). When you like someone, you like someone. We became close in a natural way.

KS: If we hadn't, the movie would not have been good. Because I am not a liar. If this (connection between us) was not solid and this was not stimulating ... This woman makes me think more than most people that I've worked with. I'm constantly sitting there in between everything (thinking). She perplexes me a little bit, which is absolutely the right dynamic. We didn't have to fake it.

Is it getting better, or do you have to just go to Europe to

get the great roles? Or is that just a cliché?

KS: If you were to get a consensus, then, yeah, absolutely. There are so many conventions in female roles in the States that it almost becomes — I mean, it's so cliché, as you say — it almost becomes stifling. And it's contagious. All of a sudden you think it's not going to be commercial and easily consumable, people are not going to make it. It's either going to be the tiniest, tiniest, tiniest movie ever, or it's just never going to happen. I read really great scripts all the time that are different and go against convention and say something new. And they can never find legs. They never get made. It's a cliché because it's true.

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FILM

Tax credit cut a 'stake through the heart' of N.S.

Those working in Nova Scotia's film and television industry sounded the death knell for its future Thursday after the provincial government cut a tax credit many say they rely on for their survival.

Producer Marc Almon said the cut is a "stake through the heart" of the province's film industry.

"The film industry, as we know it, is gone," said Almon, who is also chairman of Screen Nova Scotia, an advocacy or-

ganization for the province's screen-based industry. "Not only will it affect thousands of jobs. We're going to see more youth going down the road, a loss of immigrants, a loss of economic potential."

Starting July 1, the province announced in its budget that the film tax credit will only cover 25 per cent of eligible costs, allowing film companies to claim the other 75 per cent of the credit against taxes they owe to the province. Eli-

gible costs are fully refunded under the current structure of the tax credit, which is worth \$24 million a year. Thursday's budget reduces the credit to \$6 million.

In 2013, film and television productions in Nova Scotia generated the equivalent of 2,700 full-time jobs and \$139 million in spending, says Screen Nova Scotia. The organization says the preliminary estimate for 2014 is about \$151 million.

Mike Volpe, whose productions include the Trailer Park Boys and Mr. D, says the government is overlooking the money brought in by film and television projects.

"Without the tax credit here in Nova Scotia, shows do not get produced in Nova Scotia. That is the simple thing," said Volpe, adding that productions including his own will likely leave Nova Scotia as a result of the changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lucy Lawless, left, stars in the second season of *Salem*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lucy Lawless has a strange idea of fun

INTERVIEW

The Salem star lets us in on her bizarre guilty pleasure



Ned Ehrbar

As Lucy Lawless is well aware, there are worse ways to spend a day at work than doing interviews promoting your new TV show. "We could be carrying bricks on a hill in Bangladesh," she offers. But as we meet up in downtown Austin, Texas, to discuss her role on *Salem*, there is definitely something else she'd rather be doing — at the courthouse just down the street.

"I like to watch jury selections," she says. "It's so interesting, you get to learn information about people's lives that's so dramatic. And yes, it's a bit voyeuristic, but you get to see true life, that way and the harsh truth behind it."

How often do you do this?

Oh, once a week. They don't always have jury selection, but I do enjoy that. You don't always know what the case is about, but sometimes you can get the information. I kind of have a scoop of who's a good person to go to for informa-

tion at each courthouse. See, I'm never bored in any town because I always have my go-to activity.

Where did this come from?

I've always been interested. There are a lot of defence attorneys in my extended family and in my immediate, and I'm interested in the law and how it plays out. I'm interested in truth-telling, and I realized that I think I've got a good bulls — meter, but you realize I know nothing. Because if you grow up in a home where it's a level playing field and the world is trustworthy, you don't need to lie to survive. But people who live in a very unstable environment growing up, where lying may be a matter of survival, they're so good at it, and criminals are so good at it.

So how long have you been sitting in on jury selections?

I started about four years ago, going to actual courthouses. But I read about the law all the time, about defence cases or prosecution cases. Because human beings, you know? Louisiana has a death penalty case coming up. It was aggravated rape of a minor this week, but you don't always know what the case is. I've got to listen very carefully and read between the lines, figure out what the charge is going to be from the questions they ask the jury.

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Mariel Hemingway recounts her famous family's struggles in two new books. DAN HALLMAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Taylor Swift's mom is battling cancer

Taylor Swift revealed to her fans that her mother has cancer.

Swift wrote about the news in a post on her Tumblr on Thursday, which her representative confirmed.

Swift wants to keep the details private, but said her mother wanted fans to know what was going on.

The 25-year-old singer said she asked her mother to see her doctors as a Christmas gift. She said "there were no red flags," but they later learned Andrea Swift had cancer.

Though Swift is the superstar, Andrea has become a favourite among Swift's fans, often earning cheers from audiences at live shows.

Swift also encouraged her



Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

young fans to remind their parents to go to the doctor and get checkups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hemingway tackles addiction in memoir

MARIEL HEMINGWAY

Tough topics covered by granddaughter of literary icon

Many people remember Mariel Hemingway best from her portrayal of the sweet teenager Tracy in Woody Allen's *Man-*

hattan, where she delivered the film's uplifting closing line, a reminder that "You have to have a little faith in people."

But Hemingway herself, then only 16, was living a life with much darkness in it; her family was plagued by alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness. And suicide — including her famous grandfather, Ernest Hemingway, in 1961, and sister Margaux, the former

supermodel, in 1996.

Hemingway, now 53, has written two new memoirs, *Out Came the Sun*, and a young-adult version, *Invisible Girl*, in which she frankly recounts her family's struggles. Here are some excerpts from her interview with The Associated Press.

You write at length about alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness and suicide in

your family. Do you feel all these things are connected?

Yes, especially in my family. Look at my grandfather, this extraordinary man, Ernest Hemingway, the greatest writer of the 20th century. But he was also self-medicating pain with a lot of drinking. Then I look at my oldest sister (Muffet), who is still alive, who is wonderful, but ... I think her schizophrenia and mental health issues were triggered by drug addiction. My other sister as well, she was a major alcoholic. And you know, it's a chemical. It changes your brain. In my family, it was never one glass of wine. It was a bottle. And it changes people.

You write about how you've had seven people in your family commit suicide. And you've been involved in suicide prevention efforts. Do we have a lot to learn about suicide?

Suicide is extremely complex. It is not necessarily somebody who suffers long-term mental illness. It can be planned for 20 years, or it can happen out of the blue.... The reason I wrote these books is so that if Mariel Hemingway, who comes from this family that everybody (knows), if SHE talks about her story, maybe I get someone suffering somewhere in silence to find a safe space to tell their story. So that they can start to heal.

Why did you write the young adult book?

Because that's (the age) when I was the most scared. Also when I was the most confused. A lot of kids don't know that there's somebody out there that gets it. You don't know it's not normal. I thought that when parents fought and there was broken glass and blood on the wall, that you cleaned it up because this was your job.

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An ABC comedy pilot involving sex columnist Dan Savage has Christian conservative groups up in arms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION

Savage-backed sitcom met with protest

Conservative groups are trying to kill in the cradle a prospective ABC sitcom about a family upended when a teenage son comes out as gay because sex columnist and gay rights activist Dan Savage is involved in the production.

The Media Research Center and Family Research Council said their members have sent more than 21,000 postcards and made more than 4,000 telephone

calls asking ABC to abandon the series, tentatively titled *The Real O'Neals*. ABC is not commenting on the effort, while Savage said it is misdirected.

The show, which features actress Martha Plimpton as the family matriarch, is one of 12 comedy pilots the network is considering. Generally, about half of those pilots — at most — will get the green light.

Savage, author of the *Savage*

Love advice column, said the series evolved out of a meeting he had with ABC executives where aspects of his childhood that he has written about were discussed.

While elements of the pilot were inspired by his experiences growing up in Chicago — the father is a Chicago police officer — the show "has evolved throughout the development process and it wouldn't be accurate to describe it as autobiograph-

ical," said Savage, an executive producer of the series.

Savage's very involvement angers the conservative groups. In a letter sent to Ben Sherwood, president of the Disney/ABC Television Group, MRC president L. Brent Bozell and Family Research Council President Tony Perkins cited Savage's "radical hate speech" and "venomous anti-Christian bigotry."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Arya Stark, hardened by her life on the run, is headed solo toward the city of Braavos. CONTRIBUTED

Catch up on your GoT plot lines

Battling warriors and wrangling dragons on Game of Thrones is easy. Weathering the bitter cold north of The Wall is a snap. What's hard is keeping track of all the storylines and remembering how things were left hanging when last season ended all those months ago. With the return of Thrones for its fifth season on Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on HBO, here's a reminder of what some of the characters were up to, way back then. And if you're not caught up, spoiler alert:

1 Jon Snow

Was attempting to broker peace with the wildling army of Mance Rayder, self-styled King-Beyond-the-Wall, when Mance's camp was attacked by troops led by One-True-King Stannis Baratheon.

2 Mance Rayder

Was taken prisoner by Stannis, who ordered him to kneel in surrender, something Mance, a stubborn sort, refused to do.

3 Stannis Baratheon

Left the impression, yet again, that

he's not the forgiving type.

4 Tyrion Lannister

Often dismissed for his diminutive stature, but tough as nails, let loose a couple of fatal bolts from his crossbow at his father, Lord Tywin Lannister, who had it coming. After this execution, Tyrion was whisked away by Varys, a eunuch, and the two set sail for freedom.

5 Brienne of Tarth

A towering woman and would-be knight, was determined to fulfil her pledge to save the headstrong girl Arya Stark from the grip of thuggish Sandor Clegane, as she nearly killed him in a brawl. But Arya refused to join her and vanished from sight.

6 Arya Stark

Hardened by her hard young life on the run, took vengeance on her captor, Sandor, by refusing to put him out of his misery with her sword as he lay gravely wounded after his rumble with Brienne. She left him dying in agony as she took off solo for the city of Braavos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECH

Lego brings toys to life with new platform

The creators of the Lego video games are building their own rendition of a toys-to-life franchise.

Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and TT Games unveiled plans Thursday for Lego Dimensions, a game and toy line combining real-world Lego bricks and figures with virtual game worlds depicted on screen. It's similar to the popular Skylanders, Disney Infinity and ambiiio series from Activision-Blizzard Inc., Walt Disney Co. and Nintendo Co.

Lego Dimensions will click together several Lego-ized versions of entertainment properties, including The Lord of the Rings, Back to the Future, DC Comics, The Wizard of Oz.

"I think The Lego Movie helped open the door," said TT Games managing director Jon Burton, who served as a producer on the film. "We've found that everyone from the intellectual properties we've partnered with were hugely open to this idea.

It's lent itself to creating this world where hopefully it's only bounded by the imagination of the kids playing it."

The series' starter pack, which is scheduled for release Sept. 27 for all major consoles at \$99.99, will include the game, a reader and pieces to construct a Lego portal on the device, as well as figures of Batman, the Batmobile, Gandalf and Wyldstyle from The Lego Movie. The trio is set to be voiced respectively by Troy Baker,

Tom Kane and Elizabeth Banks.

The reader, which is divided into three sections and can detect up to seven Lego figures or vehicles at a time, doesn't visually scan the bricks. Instead, the Lego figures and vehicles can be affixed to individually marked discs containing radio frequency identification technology that's transmitted to the reader, just like the Skylanders and Infinity toys.

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MOVIE NEWS IN BRIEF

Sony eyes fourth novel in Millennium series for screen adaptation

Lisbeth Salander, the famous girl with the dragon tattoo, could be set to return to screens in a new Sony deal.

The literary character and heroine of late author Stieg Larsson's best-selling Millennium trilogy will once again be on the

bookshelves thanks to new book *The Girl in the Spider's Web*, written by David Lagercrantz.

Now Sony, which secured the rights to adapt the original trilogy, is said to be looking into adapting the fourth book as well, claims the Hollywood Reporter.

The group is reportedly considering turning the second two novels into one film and using Spi-

der's *Web* to complete its own film trilogy.

AFP

Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe up for lead in *Grand Theft Auto* biopic

Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe could be appearing on our screens next in the movie *Grand Theft Auto*.

The British actor is in

negotiations for the starring role in the biopic of the notorious video game's creator, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The film recounts the true story of Sam Houser of Rockstar Games and a U.S. lawyer who wanted to ban video-game violence.

It is a BBC Films project and will be directed by Owen Harris.

AFP

INDUSTRY TREND

Need for Speed 2 has Chinese co-producer



Aaron Paul in *Need for Speed*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Appetite for 2014's *Need for Speed* meant that Chinese audiences contributed \$66 million of the film's \$203 million take — more than any other territory, including the U.S., and matching the movie's production budget.

The sequel, announced this week, is expected to be shot in China, with a cast and crew featuring Chinese talent.

It's part of a trend that sees U.S. companies pay more and more attention to a global market, specifically a Chinese one, as China's biggest production studios become increasingly important.

Transformers: Age of Extinction signified that sea-change in attitudes towards Chinese co-operation.

Fourth in the Michael Bay

film series, it actually had a lower budget than its two immediate predecessors, but outdid all three forerunners in terms of box office domination.

As with *Need for Speed*, China Movie Channel and Jiaflix Enterprise came on board to co-produce.

Established stars Li Bingbing and Han Geng joined Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, and Stanley Tucci on the cast list, while a nationwide talent show drafted in four relative unknowns.

A good portion of filming took place in Hong Kong and on the mainland, ensuring a significant slice of Chinese action — even more for Chinese audiences, who received a localized, alternative cut. AFP

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Sandra Bullock not expected to testify

CELEBRITY STALKING

Star's 911 call about home intruder played at hearing

Sandra Bullock hid in her bedroom closet and sounded panicked and tearful at times as she guided police into her house after spotting an intruder last year, according to a 911 call played in court Thursday.

The Oscar-winning actress called police after seeing a man in her home heading for the attic. The roughly 15-minute conversation with a 911 dispatcher is the first piece of evidence a prosecutor presented against Joshua Corbett, who is charged with stalking the actress and breaking into her home in June.

"I'm in my closet. I have a safe door," Bullock, breathing heavily, is heard telling the

dispatcher. "I'm locked in the closet right now."

Bullock gave the dispatcher a description of the man and said she went out to investigate noises in her home.

"I thought it was a wind blowing," Bullock said. "Then I saw the person."

A police officer testified that Corbett was clutching a black notebook with a two-page letter to Bullock and magazine photos of the actress when he was arrested.

"He said, 'I'm sorry. I love you Sandy,'" Los Angeles police Officer Jose Bermudez testified.

Security footage showed Corbett outside Bullock's gate each of the three days before his arrest.

Corbett was not armed when he was arrested at Bullock's residence, police have said.

Corbett, 39, has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



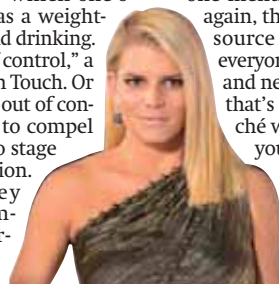
Sandra Bullock. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

FAILED INTERVENTION

Jess's Adderall mess

First of all, Jessica Simpson reportedly has a problem with Adderall — which she's been using as a weight-loss aid — and drinking. "She's out of control," a source tells *In Touch*. Or at least she's out of control enough to compel her family to stage an intervention. Which they totally fumbled, apparently. "Jess is

in complete denial right now ... she's made it clear that if anyone mentions her 'problem' again, they'll be cut off," the source says. "So for now, everyone is walking on pins and needles." I don't think that's exactly how that cliché works, but sure, I get your point. NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD



Jessica Simpson

ROYAL BIRTH

Kate to make more time for baby No. 2

Kate Middleton is gearing up to give birth to her second child — a daughter, reportedly — and this time she's planning to take more time off for maternity leave than she did with Prince George. But leave from what, exactly? "She felt she came back too soon last time. She wants to have that (time) and enjoy it with George and the new baby," a source tells *People* magazine. And while Queen Elizabeth's

reaction to the request is unknown, Prince Charles is reportedly all for it.

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So much for diversity: White guys still rule

HOLLYWOOD

Women, ethnic casts viable, but ratios favour status quo

The Fast & Furious series is often cited as an example of how diversity can work in Hollywood. With its multicultural casts and international settings, the franchise has generated more than \$2.4 billion in global earnings. The latest instalment, Furious 7, set box-office records last weekend with its \$147-million domestic opening.

"Usually, big studio tent-pole films are all very whitewashed," says Furious 7 director James Wan. "People need to learn from

this, because this is the way of the future."

Wan says the Furious films play well globally "because they have people from that part of the world in the movies and they're not treated like second-class citizens."

The dearth of diversity in Hollywood was heavy on the entertainment industry's mind during awards season, when the #OscarSoWhite hashtag went viral and host Neil Patrick Harris joked about honouring the "best and whitest — sorry — brightest" at the Academy Awards.

Yet despite the success of films like Furious 7 and increased awareness of the industry's white, male status quo, change won't be seen onscreen anytime soon.

Studies by researchers at UCLA and USC show vast underrepresentation of women and minorities in every aspect of filmmaking.

"Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts," said Cathy Schulman, the Oscar-winning producer of Crash and president of Women in Film.



Recognizing a problem and changing it are two very different beasts

Cathy Schulman, president of Women in Film



Michelle Rodriguez, top, and Ludacris in Furious 7. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

In insular, high-risk, high-profit Hollywood, change has to be insistent and intentional, said Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA.

"It's not going to correct itself naturally," said the sociology professor, co-author of UCLA's annual report on minority representation in the industry. "I suspect we'll have more and more dysfunction and lack of alignment of people in the industry holding onto an approach they've had for generations and ignoring where America is."

His team's ongoing study of the entertainment industry aims to quantify the relationship be-

tween diversity and profitability. Their second annual Hollywood diversity report, released in February, shows that while women and minorities are underrepresented across entertainment relative to the U.S. population, movies and TV shows with diverse casts tend to perform well in ratings and at the box office.

"There's a myth of people of colour not being viable internationally when the rest of the world is diverse," Hunt said.

Film and TV studio heads — found by the UCLA study to be overwhelmingly white and male — usually hire people they've worked with before, which reproduces the dismal ethnic and gender ratios. A recent study by

USC and the advocacy group Women in Film shows women have represented fewer than five per cent of directors of top films during the past two decades.

People of colour have made incremental progress recently in some areas of the entertainment business, the UCLA study found. Lead roles for non-white actors in film and TV increased by about 1 1/2 per cent in 2013 over the previous year. But even with the success of minority-led TV series such as The Mindy Project, Scandal and How to Get Away With Murder, non-white showrunners account for less than six per cent of all broadcast scripted fare, the study found.

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Everythingnoodle under the sun

JAPAN

Ramen soup so revered entire museums are devoted to it

There are two kinds of ramen in this world. There's the packaged staple of dorm-room cuisine, one of the most processed, industrialized foods ever invented. And then there's the trendy, artisanal, hand-made soup that fans line up for hours to try.

But in Japan, ramen isn't just for eating: There are entire museums devoted to it. Yokohama, a short train ride from Tokyo, has one museum for instant ramen and another for handmade ramen, and both offer samples to taste or take home.

At the Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum (the extra u gives the word a retro feel), you'll find nine shops showcasing different styles of ramen. The English brochure helpfully describes the soup at each, noting whether the noodles are straight, curly or wrinkled, and how thick they are using a five-point scale. The richness of the broth is also rated on a five-point scale.

At each shop, you order and pay for your ramen in an old-fashioned way, via a ticket vending machine in front with photos on the buttons. Some varieties are offered in small portions so you can try more than one type, although for some visitors, one small



Instant ramen soup packages on display at the Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, Japan. The museum honours the inventor of instant ramen. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+

IF YOU GO

Ramen museums
Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum and Cup Noodle Museum in Yokohama, are about 45 minutes by train from Tokyo.
Websites that have directions in English: raumen.co.jp/english/ and cupnoodles-museum.jp/english/



portion will be enough. If you can't tell, ask the staff which button is mini-ramen (the term is the same in both languages). If you're weary of foodie seriousness about what is, after all, simple noodle soup, the antidote is just a short train or subway



An exhibit at Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum, a food theme park devoted to ramen noodles, depicting storefronts in a re-created 1958 shopping district. LINDA LOMBARDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ride away: Yokohama also has a branch of the Cup Noodle Museum.

Where Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum is a food theme park for adults, Cup Noodle Museum is designed for kids. The small print on its brochure notes that it's formally named the Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum after the inventor of instant ramen. Run by an educational foundation that Ando started, the fun here is designed to support some high-minded goals with exhibits about creativity and invention.

Exhibits include a reproduction of the modest shack where Ando invented Chicken Ramen, a display of the astonishing number of varieties of instant ramen that the Nissan Food Products company has produced since then, and a food court called Noodles Bazaar. And there's a play area where kids can experience the Cup Noodle manufacturing process from the point of view of the noodle.


The main attraction here, though, is the make-your-own section. For a separate fee for a timed ticket, kids (or adults) can make their own personal Cup Noodle, decorating the cup, then putting in the noodles and choosing the soup and toppings. Watch the lid get sealed and the whole cup shrink-wrapped, then your creation is enclosed in a cool protective package that you pump air into to cushion it on the trip home. A warning: Cup Noodle Museum, educational as it is, is extremely popular with school groups and is packed with them some weekdays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Skydive without leaving Earth

iFLY

Experience weightlessness at iFly Toronto wind tunnel

There is a place just outside Toronto where humans can fly.

And flying makes a nice birthday gift, especially for a 12-year-old playing hooky from school.

Suzanne Lyon took her son, Jack, out of school last week to skydive indoors at iFly Toronto in Oakville, Ont. Jack falls into the vertical wind tunnel where air rushes from below up to 250 km/h, or “a couple hurricanes” worth of wind.

Then he floats for a minute or two, like a skydiver would do after jumping from a plane.



**Amazing.
Extraordinary.
Awesome.**
12-year-old Jack

The experience is similar to free falling without the crippling fear that can come with hurtling toward Earth at break-neck speeds.

He dips, dives and sometimes crashes into the wall of the cylindrical chamber with instructor Adrian Uracz standing nearby, sometimes pulling him back and helping him.

He looks a little like a bird learning to fly.

Jack says it was “amazing” and “extraordinary” and “awesome.” But the actual experience is difficult to describe. “I don’t know what to say,” says the boy of few words. But he smiles a lot.

Uracz is more verbal. “It’s such a different feeling from what you would have in your everyday life.”

Later the instructor shows the rookies how to really fly in the chamber, twisting, turning, flipping and floating at will, as if he lives in a world without gravity. Flyers can learn these tricks over time through iFly’s academy with coaches like Uracz.

The facility opened last May and there are 23 others like it



Jeff Finkler, left, is guided by an instructor while trying indoor skydiving at iFly Toronto.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

around the world, but a wind tunnel in Montreal is the only other one in Canada.

Four giant fans at the top of the building powered by 350-horsepower engines act

like a vacuum and suck air up, before sending it back down nearby vents to recirculate.

+ IF YOU GO

What you need to know

- iFly Toronto is open daily. Flights begin at \$72.
- There are risks involved and pregnant women and those who have dislocated their shoulders previously shouldn’t participate.
- Children aged four and up can fly but must be accompanied by an adult.
- Find out more at: ifly-toronto.com

The flyer floats in the middle of this vacuum.

Both Jack and his mother have come before.

Her husband surprised Suzanne Lyon one date night with a trip to iFly — she thought they were going mini-golfing. They returned to let Jack fly and expect they’ll be back many times in the future.

Maybe he’ll never be able to put the experience into words, but if he can, it will surely involve a lot of superlatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAVEL NOTES FINDING THE LOWEST AIRFARES

New: All-natural travel kits

The Canadian-made Consonant natural skin-care line has launched a couple of new travel kits full of miniatures of some of their top products. The company uses organic botanical ingredients, affirming that what goes on your body also goes in your body. Includes The Perfect Sunscreen, one of the smoothest, most non-greasy, mineral-based sunscreens out there. Pictured set, \$225. Visit ConsonantSkincare.com.



Bucket List: West Hollywood

While L.A. can be overwhelming, choosing West Hollywood as your home base will make it manageable. There’s a lot to do: Check out the up-and-coming comedians at the Comedy Store on Sunset Strip or prop up a corner of the bar at the Chateau Marmont. Pop into the Standard Hotel (pic-



tured) for a dip in the pool and some lunch or play Spot the Celebrity at the Mondrian Hotel patio bar.

Tip: Find the lowest airfares

It’s sometimes not where you search for cheap flights, but when. The moment you see an airline sale, wait until the next afternoon to hunt for a fare, because all the airline’s competitors will be trying to match the previous day’s

sale price. The sweet spot for buying domestic tickets is 55 days in advance. Best day to fly? Tuesday, because there is less demand for seats and the prices are lower. Doug Wallace



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Flames earn spot in playoffs

NHL

Calgary eliminates defending champions

3 1
FLAMES KINGS

Jiri Hudler scored twice and added an assist Thursday night as the Calgary Flames clinched their first playoff spot in six years with a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

The Kings saw their post-season aspirations come to an end with the loss. It is the first time since the Carolina Hurricanes in 2006-07 that the defending Stanley Cup champions have failed to make the playoffs the following season.

Johnny Gaudreau also scored for Calgary (45-29-7). Winners of five of their last six, the Flames wrap up the regular season in Winnipeg on Saturday against the Jets, who, despite losing 1-0 to the Colorado Avalanche in a shootout, clinched the second wild-card spot with the Kings loss.

Jordan Nolan scored for Los Angeles (39-27-15), which finishes the year winless in its final five games on the road (0-4-1).

The Flames will play the Canucks in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Calgary entered the night two points back of Vancouver, which was in action Thursday against the Arizona Coyotes.

Calgary jumped out to a 1-0 lead at 12:50 on play that started and finished with Gaudreau.

After crossing the Kings blue-line, Gaudreau curled and patiently hung on to the puck before feeding Hudler, who



The Flames' Matt Stajan, right, watches a shot by Johnny Gaudreau get past Kings goalie Jonathan Quick for a goal at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Thursday night. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

hammered a shot that went off the end boards and caromed back in front where Gaudreau's shot trickled over Jonathan Quick's shoulder.

The Flames surged in front 2-0 just over two minutes later. Set up by Mason Raymond, Hudler picked the top corner with

a 40-footer.

Los Angeles finally solved Jonas Hiller five minutes into the third period. Alec Martinez's shot from the corner was stopped but the rebound into the slot was promptly buried by Nolan.

The atmosphere in the Scotia-

bank Saddledome was electric with a great majority of fans wearing red jerseys.

The raucous sell-out crowd of 19,289 got going early as Calgary started out fast and would have taken the lead even sooner if not for a couple great saves from Quick. Calgary outshot Los

Angeles 15-8 in the first period.

The Kings pushed back in the second period but couldn't get any closer despite a 12-4 edge in shots.

Quick finished with 22 stops to fall to 35-22-13. Hiller made 33 saves to improve to 26-19-4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ MORE SCORES

Senators 3, Rangers 0

Clarke MacArthur and Kyle Turris scored in a 1:04 span late in the second period and Ottawa moved into the Eastern Conference's first wild-card spot with a 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night.

Andrew Hammond had 26 saves for his third shut-out.

Canadiens 4, Red Wings 3

Lars Eller scored 1:21 into overtime to lift Montreal to a victory over Detroit giving Carey Price a team record 43rd win of the season.

Detroit qualified for the playoffs by earning a point in the overtime loss.

Panthers 4, Bruins 2

Roberto Luongo earned his 401st career win and Jaromir Jagr got his 1,800th career point, helping the Florida Panthers beat Boston, damaging the Bruins' playoff hopes.

The Bruins have lost two straight after winning their previous five games. They trail Ottawa by two points and Pittsburgh by one for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

Blues 2, Blackhawks 1

Paul Stastny scored the game-winner, Dmitrij Jaskin broke a 16-game scoreless string, and Jake Allen made 21 saves to lead St. Louis past Chicago Blackhawks in a Central Division showdown.

The Blues clinched the division title and home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spieth in familiar spot at the top

MASTERS

21-year-old has three-stroke lead after the first round

Jordan Spieth was already one of the hottest players on the PGA Tour.

He showed no signs of letting up at the Masters.

There are still three rounds to go, but the 21-year-old Spieth looks very much like the one to beat after opening with an 8-under 64 and making a serious run at the major championship

+ CANCON

In Canadian results, amateur Corey Connors of Listowel, Ont., was 8 over while 2003 Masters champion Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., was 10 over.

scoring record Thursday.

If not for a blunder at the par-5 15th, where Spieth's tee shot left him perfectly positioned for no worse than a birdie but he wound up making bogey, he very well could have been the first player to shoot 62 at one of golf's biggest events.

As it was, Spieth came up just short of the record, which is 63, but can't complain about a three-

shot lead heading to Friday.

Ernie Els, Justin Rose, Jason Day and Charley Hoffman all shot 67. Sergio Garcia and Russell Henley were another stroke back with 68s.

"To make nine birdies out there, that's a dreamy round for me," Spieth said. "It was a lot of fun."

None of this should be a surprise. Not the way he was playing leading up to Augusta, having won, finished second, and lost in a playoff in his three previous tournaments. Not the way he played a year ago in his Masters debut, leading on Sunday before fading down the stretch to finish in a tie for second behind Bubba Watson.

Maybe it was the experience last time that kept from getting too worked up about his brilliant start. There's an endless list of players who led a major after the opening round and were long gone by Sunday.

But it would be a huge surprise if Spieth fades away. "I was leading last year at one point by a couple of shots on Sunday," he recalled. "It didn't go my way. I know how many things can happen in a major



Jordan Spieth receives a loud ovation upon scoring a birdie to end his first round of the Masters on Thursday in Augusta, Ga. ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

championship. I'll try to learn from last year and stay patient these next three rounds."

Meanwhile, Tiger Woods dis-

played improvement in his return to competitive golf. He's still got a lot of work to do, however, before he's ready to com-

pete for his 15th major championship. Woods finished with a 1-over 73.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

A-Rod homers but Blue Jays win series

Alex Rodriguez hit his first home run since serving a year-long drug suspension, but the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 6-3 Thursday night in the first major league win for eccentric rookie Daniel Norris.

Edwin Encarnacion homered and the Blue Jays got RBI singles from Jose Reyes and Kevin Pillar in a four-run second inning against CC Sabathia.

The Blue Jays took two of

INN.Y.C. Thursday

6	3
BLUE JAYS	YANKEES

three in the season-opening series, boosting their record at Yankee Stadium to 7-30 since May 24, 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Tigers set AL shutout record to start season

The Detroit Tigers set the modern AL record for the longest shutout streak to start a season, extending their string to 24 innings while beating the Minnesota Twins 7-1 on Thursday.

Under new manager Paul Molitor, Minnesota (0-3) scored its lone run in the seventh.

Detroit broke the AL mark of 22 innings set by the 1947 Chicago White Sox, STATS said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions re-sign Iannuzzi

The B.C. Lions signed Canadian receiver Marco Iannuzzi to a contract extension through the 2016 season Thursday.

The six-foot-one, 195-pounder from Calgary is entering his fifth season with the Lions, who selected him in the first round, sixth overall, of the 2011 CFL draft. Iannuzzi has registered 73 catches for 786 yards and seven touchdowns in 62 regular-season games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HERNANDEZ TRIAL

Photographer banned from court

A photographer for a Boston TV station was banned from the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez on Thursday after he acknowledged following jurors to their parking spots, which the judge said was prohibited.

On the third day of deliberations, Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh banned Robert Cusanelli of WHDH-TV from the courthouse.

Two jurors informed the court Thursday morning that

16

Jurors have deliberated for nearly 16 hours over three days as of Thursday afternoon.

they saw someone watching them in a Ford Explorer. One took a picture of its license plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Hoisin Chicken with Mushrooms and Bell Peppers

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Ready in

Prep time: 15

Cook time: 35

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Lightly coat a 9- x 13-inch casserole dish with vegetable spray.

2. Dust the chicken with the flour. In a large skillet lightly coated with cooking spray, add 2 tsp of the vegetable oil and set over medium heat. Add the chicken and sauté for about 8 minutes or until browned on all sides. Place in the casserole dish.

3. Wipe and respray the skillet, add the remaining 2 tsp of vegetable oil. Add the onion and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and sauté for 8 minutes or until the mushrooms are no longer wet. Add the bell pepper and sauté for 4 minutes.

4. Whisk together the soy sauce, hoisin sauce, water, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and rice vinegar in a small bowl. Add to the vegetables and cook for 1 minute. Pour over the chicken and bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the chicken is done. Garnish with sesame seeds and cilantro if using. Serve over rice or noodles.



Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs (about 6 thighs)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups sliced onion
- 4 cups sliced button mushrooms
- 1 1/3 cups sliced yellow or red bell pepper
- 1 1/2 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tbsp water
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tsp finely chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp rice vinegar
- 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro (optional)

Nutrition per serving

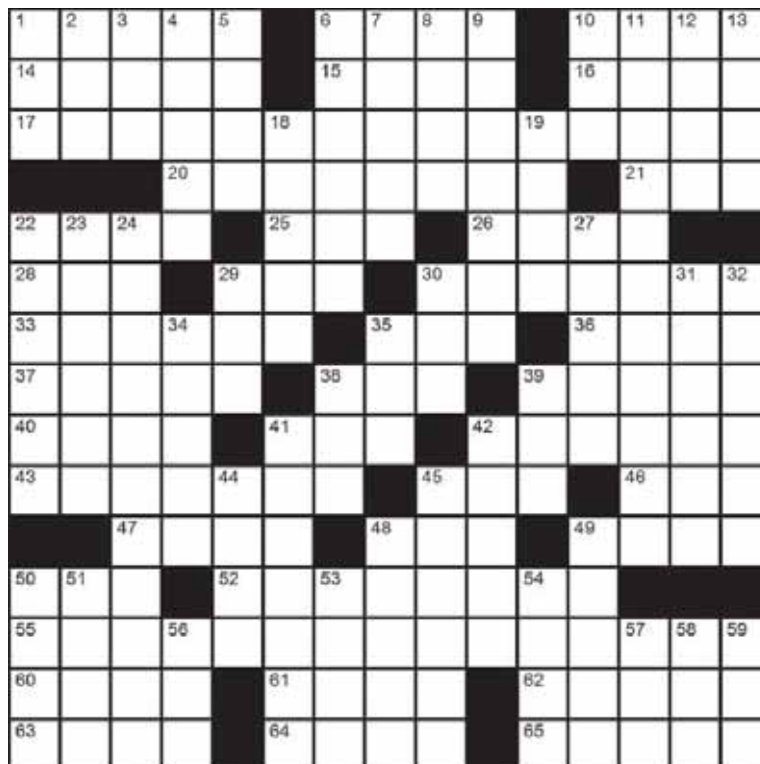
- Calories 264
- Protein 23 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1.2 g
- Total fat 14.6 g
- Saturated fat 3.0 g
- Cholesterol 74 mg
- Sodium 270 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
metronews.ca



ACROSS

- Upcoming comedy, "Paul _; Mall Cop 2" (2015)
- Mario Puzo character
- Bright fish
- Oddity
- With: French
- Other
- Nova Scotia: The Lighthouse Route is one scenic drive ...and this is another: 2 wds.
- Quebec city/river
- Edible tuber
- Donkey/horse
- Bronze Roman money
- Headland
- _ _ budget
- Docs
- "Remedy" on Global TV star, Diego _ (Trivia! He won the first VJ Search for Much-Music in 1995)
- MLS properties
- Gives birth
- Collector's suffix
- Cook's covering
- Criticize
- Fibre- _ cable
- CNN's "The Wonder List with Bill _"
- Clear
- "Anchors _" (1945)
- Triangular bone
- Canadian hoops org.
- Slade's "Take Me Bak _"
- Ink stain
- Scottish writer Josephine

- _ _ the kill
- Hearer
- Cameron _ (Canadian actor/TV host)
- Subject of "Lord of War" (2005) starring Nicolas Cage: 3 wds.
- Stare, stunned-style

- Q. "Is ' _ ' way to abbreviate Dublin's land?" A. "Indeed."
- Serf of Sparta
- US IDs
- Actress Barbara
- Acadian singer Ms. Butler

DOWN

- Pre-A.D. indicator
- Sweetie
- The Altar constellation
- Clean the fruit
- Attire for Augustus
- Appraises
- Brick wall plants
- Memphis, _

- Water-related Titan
- Poetic preposition
- Sony gaming system
- Laos' locale
- Leadership position
- "My word!"
- Salmon sort

- Punk rocker hairstyle
- Closed
- Host of CBC Radio 2 program The Signal (Trivia! She is a Much-Music alum and has a cameo in Corey Hart's "Sunglasses at Night" video): 2 wds.
- Straight-billed marsh bird
- Fellows
- Room cooler
- Puzzling problem
- Perfumed pouch
- _ _ Tracy, Quebec
- Milliner's creation
- Liveliness
- Mouse muncher
- Canadian musician Ms. MacMaster
- Chasm
- 1978 movie for Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold
- American retailer, _ Marcus
- Two-plus-one's sum
- Chris de Burgh's "The Lady _"
- Shelled things
- Woeful word
- Alimentation Couche- _ Inc. (Canadian convenience store company)
- Will _ _ _wisp
- Library fare, briefly
- Ms. Landry
- Polka's pal
- Ordinal suffix

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone in a position of authority can and will help you out over the next 24 hours, if you ask them to. Not even an Aries can do it all by themselves.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you have a good idea today you must let others know about it, especially those who can support you and guide you. Sharing what you know is always good business.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Family matters are under excellent stars at the moment, so if you need to get back on good terms with a loved one now is the time to kiss and make up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will have to deal with a difficult person today but are advised not to do anything that could turn them against you. According to the planets you will need this person's assistance very soon.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will discover something about a friend or work colleague today that answers a lot of questions. What you discover might be amusing but you are advised to keep it to yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to make your peace with someone you have fallen out with in recent weeks. The planets suggest that if you make the effort you won't be disappointed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Open up and reveal your true feelings today. If you are not happy with something, or someone, then say so. Don't make it hard for others to read your mood.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone older and wiser will give you some valuable advice today and if you are smart you will take it. You may be doing well but you could be doing even better.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Others may say you are being too careful, and maybe you are, but don't change your ways to please them. Looked at from another perspective, they're taking too many chances.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may want to help someone in need but some people prefer to suffer in silence than admit they need assistance. Respect their wishes.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be sad that something, or someone, is going out of your life but don't shed too many tears. The good news is that something, or someone, even better will come along to fill it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your viewpoint on an important issue will change dramatically over the next 48 hours — you may even end up at the opposite end of the opinion spectrum to where you are now.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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